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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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# The Pittsburgh Commercial.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial.

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## FIRST EDITION.

### STEAMER LOST AT SEA.

### THE JAPAN BURNT BETWEEN YOKOHAMA AND HONG KONG.

### But One Small Boat-load of Survivors Heard From.

### Immense Loss of Life Among Steerage Passengers.

HONG KONG, December 19.—The Pacific Mail Company's steamship Japan, from San Francisco and Yokohama for this port, was burned on Thursday last, when sixty miles out from Yokohama. A few of the crew and passengers have arrived here. It is feared that many lives have been lost.

NEW YORK, December 19.—The Japan left San Francisco November 14th, arriving at Yokohama December 10th, and sailed hence on the 12th for Hong Kong with three cabin passengers, F. W. Crocker, A. M. Tindell and Mary Stott, and 424 Chinese in the steerage. The steamer left San Francisco with 975 tons of freight and $75,000 of treasure. Her officers were: Captain, P. R. Warsaw; first officer, F. W. Hart; second, H. H. Andrews; third, J. P. Gallagher; chief engineer, John Cosgrove; first assistant engineer, W. Bennett; second, David F. Alton; third, James Chinese in the steerage. The steamer left Heney; purser, John Rooney; surgeon, V. B. Gates; freight clerk, C. L. Graham; storekeeper, W. B. Horn; steward, O. N. Clark, and second steward, Wm. Roy. The Japan was one of the old wooden ships of the Pacific Mail Company, and is insured for $130,000 in English and French companies.

The following cable dispatch in regard to the disaster to the Japan was received this morning from Mr. Emory, agent of the Pacific Mail Company at Hong Kong, by Mr. Hatch, managing director: "The chief engineer, seven Chinese crew and one lady passenger arrived in the ship's boat. They report that the Japan burned at midnight of the 17th, forty miles this side of Swatow, twelve miles off land. Other boats made for land. Further particulars reported shortly."

#### NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 19, 1874.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR. BEECHER AND MISS PROCTOR.

The termination of the suit by Miss Proctor against Francis D. Moulton has elicited the following correspondence:

121 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOLKYN, December 17, 1874.

*My Dear Miss Proctor:* Of all men, surely I have the right to congratulate you on the effected disposition made by the referee's report of the miserable and shameless slanders cast upon you. I have been the innocent cause of great sorrow to you. Such wanton aspersion would be intolerable upon a man; but upon a woman so little to defend herself, so sensitive even to the very shadow of dishonor, such slanders are atrocious crimes. But, now that you have been vindicated, I am content not to have quite my own way, for I was at first hurt not a little that the case was adjusted without giving me the opportunity publicly and under oath to deny the shameful allegations made, and to brand the stories as malignant falsehoods in their relation to you and in their relation to me. You know, assuredly, that I never uttered any of the alleged injurious statements concerning you, as I know that there were never grounds on your part for such wicked stories. I hope that your health will not suffer permanently. I marvel that you have borne up as bravely as you have. May you speedily recover your accustomed vivacity, and live to see all your former friends made doubly friendly by your trials, and hundreds of sympathizing strangers made warm friends by your unmerited sufferings. I am, as ever, very truly yours,

(Signed) HENRY WARD BEECHER.

P. S.—Do you know that we have come to the shortest day? After two or three more, every day will have more sunlight in it than its predecessor. May the omen be blessed!

Miss Proctor replied as follows:

BROOKLYN, December 18, 1874.

*Dear Mr. Beecher:*—I thank you for your letter of yesterday, with its expressions of sympathy at the terrible injustice and cruelty I have had to endure, and with its congratulations upon the end attained. I should have been glad if you could have had the opportunity to deny publicly, under oath, this atrocious story. At the same time, I attached little importance to such a denial, for it has always seemed to me that the absurdity and impossibility of your ever having uttered a syllable of this slander, must be apparent to all the world, as it is to myself. And now that the lie has been retracted in open court, by those who proclaimed it, with abhorrence and scorn, it merits dismissal forever. So my heart uplifts itself and, though these are dark December days, I feel that the future will bring you sunlight without clouds, and that your remaining years will be the happiest and most useful of your life. I am yours cordially,

(Signed) EDNA DEAN PROCTOR.

*Rev. Henry W. Beecher.*

#### WESTON SUCCEEDS ONCE.

A dispatch from Newark says that Weston has accomplished the task of walking five hundred miles in six days.

NEW YORK, December 20, 1874.

FAILURE OF A BUTTER MERCHANT.

H. N. Morgan, a butter merchant and Treasurer of the Butter and Cheese Exchange, has failed. His liabilities, it is stated, will exceed a hundred thousand dollars.

THE VAIN SEARCH FOR CHARLIE ROSS—A NEW SCHEME PROPOSED.

Yesterday the Mayor of Bayonne called upon Superintendent Walling, in relation to a boy who was found drowned in Newark bay, and who was buried at Bayonne. The gentleman said that the boy had blue eyes, but he could not find any resemblance in him to the portrait or description of Charlie Ross. The child was, moreover, puny, and appeared about three years old, while Charlie is now nearly five years old. The body will, however, be disinterred should the Ross family desire it. Endeavors are being made to induce the Governors of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut to grant immunity to any one who will produce the child. When this is agreed upon, a reward will be offered for the production of the boy.

#### CASUALTIES.

Railroad Accident in Tennessee—Two Persons Killed and Five Wounded.

RICHMOND, December 19.—A special dispatch states that a collision occurred this morning on the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad, two miles east of Carter's Depot, Tennessee, killing J. Crouse and William Wyatt, and injuring five men. Two engines and several cars were smashed, and two cars, with their contents, were burnt. The track will not be passable till to-morrow.

#### NEWS SUMMARY.

*BY TELEGRAPH.*

*Probabilities for To-Day*—For the Middle States, clearing and colder weather, with north or west winds and rising barometer. For the Ohio Valley, partly cloudy weather, low, but rising temperature, south or west winds and rising, followed by falling barometer. The Upper Ohio and the rivers of Pennsylvania will rise during Monday.

The steamer Victoria, from Glasgow, arrived at New York Saturday.

The new postoffice at Omaha has been completed and occupied.

Extensive preparations are making at Memphis for the approaching Carnival display.

Rev. W. R. Huntington, D.D., of Worcester, Mass., declines the bishopric of Iowa.

The salvage on the French steamer Amerique has been reduced, on appeal, to ninety thousand dollars.

Jefferson Rives, one of the proprietors of the *Congressional Globe*, dropped dead in Washington, yesterday.

Fletcher Rane, one of the oldest cotton factors of Memphis, died in that city Friday night, of heart disease.

The police authorities of Philadelphia claim to have reliable information that Charlie Ross was alive December 12th.

A disastrous fire occurred at Tokei, Japan, on the 17th of November, by which about one thousand houses were destroyed.

There is an unconfirmed report in Des Moines, that Friday night a mob hung George N. Kirkan, near Peoria City, Iowa, for burning a barn.

Right Rev. Dr. Garrett, recently elected Missionary Bishop of Northern Texas, was yesterday consecrated to his work in Trinity Cathedral, Omaha.

The Arkansas Legislature has passed the bill providing for the issuance of twenty-five millions, in bonds running thirty years and bearing six per cent. interest, for the purpose of taking up the floating indebtedness of the State and procure money to pay the current expenses of the government.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

### BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

#### England.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT READING.

LONDON, December 19.—The iron works of the Great Western Railway Company at Reading were burned to-day. Four hundred persons are thus thrown out of employment.

#### Germany.

Herald Cable Special.]

VON ARNIM SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

LONDON, December 19.—The sentence of Count Von Arnim embodies no dishonor. The charges of embezzlement fall to the ground. However, Von Arnim's neglect to return the missing papers, when asked by the Foreign Department, makes necessary the setting of an example. The general belief is that the Emperor will pardon him.

BERLIN, December 19.—Count Von Arnim has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, deducting from the term the period which he has already spent in confinement in jail.

LONDON, December 21.—A special to the *Daily News*, from Berlin, states that both the prosecution and defense have appealed to the Kammergericht from the sentence of Count Von Arnim. The case will come up in the higher court in about three months.

BERLIN, December 20.—The sentence of Count Von Arnim, in addition to the term of imprisonment, requires the payment of the costs. The Count is permitted to retain his official dignities, with the title of "Excellency." He will go to Italy immediately on the expiration of his term of imprisonment, for the restoration of his health.

#### France.

DEAD LOCK IN THE ASSEMBLY—A DISSOLUTION INEVITABLE.

LONDON, December 21—5:30 A. M.—The *Times'* correspondent at Paris telegraphs that the division of parties in consequence of the vote in the Committee of Thirty, on the 16th instant, has produced a dead lock, which will certainly cause a dissolution of the Assembly when a vote on the constitutional bills is taken, immediately after recess.

#### Maine News.

LIVERPOOL, December 19.—The steamships Algeria, Europa, Klopstock and Canada arrived out.

QUEENSTOWN, December 20.—The steamship City of London, which sailed from Queenstown December 11th, returned today, disabled. Her mails will be transferred to the steamship Cuba for New York.

LONDON, December 20.—The steamships Holsatia, from New York, and Nederland, from Philadelphia, arrived out.

#### European Markets.

LONDON, December 19—5 p. m.—Consols for money 93⅜@93⅝; for account 92@93⅝. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 106¾; do 1867, 107; 10-40's 101; new 5's, 107. New York Central 93; Erie 25½; do preferred 40. Tallow 47s 6d@48s 9d. Refined petroleum 9½@9¾d.

PARIS, December 19.—Rentes 61 francs 57½ centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 19.—United States bonds—5-20's, 1862, 98.

LIVERPOOL, December 19.—Cotton dull; middling uplands 7⅝@7¾d; Orleans 7¾d. Sales of 8,000 bales, including 1,000 for speculation and export and 4,500 American. Breadstuffs quiet. Lard 64s 6d. Shoulders 33. Hams—sugar cured 59s. Lard oil—none here.

## HAYDENVILLE.

### Bursting of One of the New Dams—The Village Deluged Again—Narrow Escape of Children Skating—No Loss of Life.

HAYDENVILLE, MASS., December 19, 1874.—The large new dam just completed for Hayden, Gere & Co.'s brass works, at this place, burst about eleven o'clock this forenoon, and a large body of water, covered with ice about ten inches thick, swept down the channel through the village, with a crash similar to the one of May last. The cotton mill dam, just below this village, held the water and ice, which has probably prevented any sacrifice of life at Leeds, with which place there is no telegraphic communication. There were seventy-five or a hundred children skating on the pond at the time, but it is thought all escaped. There was great excitement for the time, as it was reported that two large Goshen reservoirs had broken, and the inhabitants were making for high ground as fast as possible.

A later dispatch says that there was no loss of life above or below the broken dam. The cotton mill dam, about half a mile below Hayden, Gere & Co.'s dam, held the water and ice, and prevented any loss of life or further destruction of property. The cotton mill dam is one of the strongest on the river. A portion of it was carried away by the May flood, but has since been thoroughly repaired.

#### CRIMINAL RECORD.

Ballard, the Counterfeiter, and Four Other Prisoners Break Jail.

AUBURN, N. Y., December 19.—Tom Ballard, the notorious Buffalo counterfeiter, and four other prisoners escaped from the county jail here this evening.

Terrible and Fatal Outrage upon a Boston Girl.

BOSTON, December 19.—The daughter of United States Judge Lowell, aged twelve years, while returning home from skating to-day, was brutally assaulted and mutilated by a negro. The child is thought to be fatally injured. The negro has been arrested.

Body of a Young Woman Found in a Philadelphia Medical College.

PHILADELPHIA, December 19.—The body of a young woman was found, to-day, in the medical college on Ninth street, whither it had been taken, it is alleged, by the police from the Women's Hospital on North Twelfth street. The remains had been packed in a trunk, the legs being pinioned behind. Dr. Serpente, *alias* Bilbob, said to be the keeper of the Women's Hospital, has been arrested.

Coroner of Northumberland Murdered.

POTTSVILLE, PA., December 19.—Frederick Hesser, Coroner of Northumberland county, was murdered at Coal Run mines, near Shamokin, last night. There is great excitement, and the citizens have organized a committee to investigate.

#### FIRE RECORD.

Gallatin, Tenn—$30,000.

NASHVILLE, December 19.—The Eagle Woolen Mills, at Gallatin, Tenn., were burned yesterday. Loss $30,000. Insured for $17,000, divided between the Hartford, Ætna and Phœnix companies.

Cincinnati—$70,000.

CINCINNATI, December 20.—The extensive tannery of Ziegler & Co., located in the Twenty-fourth ward, was burned this afternoon. Loss, $70,000; insurance, $20,000, divided between the Enterprise, Globe, Ohio Valley and Citizens', all of this city. The cause of the fire is unknown.

#### OUR SCHOOLS.

Revising the Laws—A Visit to the Lawrence Schools.

The committee, appointed last winter to revise the school law of the State are holding their sessions at the rooms of the Central Board of Education, and have their labors so nearly completed that it is hoped they will be ready to submit the new codification to the Legislature at its next session. The reputation of the members of the committee is such as to encourage us to expect a correction of the many evils of the old statutes, which have so often burdened the administration of school affairs in the State. Several members of the committee visited the Lawrence night school, Prof. Duncan, principal, on Saturday evening last, to witness the closing exercises and render kindly assistance in "hiding away" certain edibles prepared for the occasion by the friends of the school. Two hundred persons, pupils and visitors, were fed, and we are informed several baskets full were gathered up after the feast and dispensed to the worthy poor of the neighborhood. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Shippen, Lackey, Gibbons, Ford, Andrews and others, and the Principal briefly explained the operation of the school during the winter. About three hundred pupils have been enrolled including the members of a department of mechanical drawing. The revising committee meets again to-day.

Pennsylvania Female College.

The first concert of the session of 1874-'5, of the Pennsylvania College, will be given on to-morrow (Tuesday) evening, the 22d instant, at half past seven o'clock, under the direction of Mrs. S. Brannan Hershey, and Prof. H. E. Lippert. The programme embraces twelve selections, and the names of the performers are Misses. C. and J. Jenks, Miss Harden, Miss Barrett, Miss Wheat, Miss Wills, Miss Locke, Miss Brannan, Miss Brown, Miss Purviance, and Prof. Lippert.

Burdett Christmas Organs for $85.

Those fine $150 Burdett Organs, with four stops and double set of reeds, are offered for $85 with $10 stool thrown in, by Messrs. H. Kieber & Bro., 122 Wood street. They are warranted for eight years, and are by all odds the cheapest and finest instruments ever offered to the public. The object of this great reduction in price is to induce the people to lay out their money for something *useful* as well as beautiful and acceptable—an article which the entire family circle will prize more highly than any gift of mere show and luxury. The Messrs. Kieber act principally in the interest of musical art in this matter, and they merit the thanks of the community for so doing.

## SECOND EDITION.

### WASHINGTON.

### Caucus of Republican Senators.

### SOUTHERN AFFAIRS DISCUSSED.

### Finance Bill Agreed Upon.

### Probability of Its Adoption by Congress and Approval by the President.

### Southern Republican Representatives in Consultation.

### IRWIN REFUSES TO TELL ABOUT THE PACIFIC MAIL SUBSIDY.

### His Contumacy to be Brought to the Notice of the House.

### Investigation of the Safe-Burglary Trial to be Urged.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20, 1874.

The caucus of Southern Republican members, last night, was very largely attended. Mr. Thomas, of Virginia, presided. A committee, consisting of Messrs. White, of Alabama, Maynard, of Tennessee, Platt, of Virginia, Ransier, of South Carolina, and Whitely, of Georgia, was appointed to prepare legislation to be submitted to the House. The caucus resolved that they would direct their efforts to secure legislation in three particular points, viz.: The finances, the question of transportation and internal improvements, and also to secure such action, by amendments to the reconstruction laws or otherwise, as will more surely protect Southern Republicans and correct the abuses for which they think they have had reasonable cause of complaint. The caucus resolved to oppose any holiday recess, and will urge only an adjournment over Christmas day and New Year's day. The subject of the removal of Federal officers in the South was discussed, especially the removal of postmasters, without consulting the Southern Representatives, and it was resolved to address communications to the President and Postmaster General on the subject, and to insist that they should be consulted before removals are made.

District Judge of Alabama.

It is reported that Hon. Lewis E. Parsons will be nominated to-morrow for District Judge of Alabama, *vice* Busteed, resigned.

The Safe-Burglary Trial.

Mr. Beck will to-morrow renew the motion, made on Monday last, for an investigation of the late safe-burglary trial. He devoted several hours yesterday to an examination of certain facts in the office of the Solicitor of the Treasury, and, if he has an opportunity of making an explanation, he has no doubt that the resolution will be adopted.

Irwin Flats Out.

Up to Friday evening last, the sub-committee appointed to examine Mr. R. B. Irwin, was perfectly well satisfied with the manner in which he had answered the questions put to him, and they felt assured that they would have no difficulty. Yesterday, however, Mr. Irwin changed his tactics and, when asked to give detailed statements of the manner in which he had expended the $750,000 entrusted to him, he declined to answer, pleading the rights of counsel and client. This is the gist of the whole inquiry, and the committee whole leave no effort untried to compel a response. They will report the facts to the full committee to-morrow, and will then ask the House to bring the witness before the bar of the House, with a view of either compelling an answer or punishing Irwin for contempt. Mr. Irwin's friends and counsel say that nothing will compel him to answer the question as to the persons to whom he paid the money. He will suffer punishment first, especially as his imprisonment cannot last more than two months. He will plead the condition of health as a reason why he should not be compelled to undergo very rigorous treatment.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 19, 1874.

THE STOWELL INVESTIGATION.

The committee to investigate the charges against Representative Stowell, of selling cadetships, has adjourned till Monday, in consequence of the failure of George W. Graham to appear. Graham, it is alleged, carried the papers, and the committee think he is hiding.

CAUCUS OF REPUBLICAN SENATORS—A FINANCE BILL AGREED UPON—ITS ADOPTION CONSIDERED PROBABLE.

At a caucus of Republican Senators, today, there was an unanimous profession that all citizens in the South must be protected in their lawful rights. Some Senators suggested that there should be an increase of the army. Others were of the opinion that improved militia arrangements would better secure protection, while being less objectionable than the regular military force, and more in accordance with the spirit of our institutions. The question was postponed for a future, but early day.

The Caucus Committee on Southern Affairs will not make any recommendation with regard to a Southern policy until the committee appointed by the House shall have made their report. Therefore the Arkansas question was not discussed.

There was an indisposition manifested to take action relative to the Kellogg government. As to admitting Pinchback, it was said there were questions before the Committee on Privileges and Elections affecting him, which should first be settled.

Most of the time of the caucus was consumed on the finance question. The debate took a wide range, but all who spoke expressed the opinion that something should be done, and therefore it was the part of true statesmanship to harmonize their views, if possible. The Committee of Eleven, Mr. Sherman, Chairman, before they brought their report into the caucus, differed, seven being in favor of the report and four against it; but, finally, on motion of one of the four, the report was made unanimous and adopted by the caucus. The bill agreed upon will be reported on Monday to the Senate. Its leading features are substantially as follows:

*First*—Free banking to be open to all individuals and associations, without limitation of capital.

*Second*—The retiring of an amount of greenbacks equal to eighty per cent. of the amount of new national notes issued until the greenback circulation shall be reduced to $300,000,000, after which no further reduction of greenbacks is to take place. It is claimed that by this provision there will be neither expansion nor contraction of the currency, as about twenty per cent. is now required as bank reserves.

*Third*—The withdrawal and destruction of fractional currency and the substitution of silver coin, the arrangement to go into effect as soon as practicable, under direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, who is authorized to use surplus money for supplying silver coin and, if this is not sufficient, to sell the requisite amount of bonds of the new series to obtain funds for that purpose.

*Fourth*—The removing of the cost for the coinage of gold at the several mints.

*Fifth*—The resumption of specie payments, to commence on the first day of January, 1879. The Secretary is authorized to use the surplus specie in the Treasury, but, if that is not sufficient, to sell bonds in order to obtain gold to pay Treasury notes. But this last provision does not, like the others, go into immediate effect. The Legal Tender act remains undisturbed.

The bill having been agreed to almost unanimously by the caucus (there being only four members dissenting) insures the passage of the bill by the Senate, and will, it is thought by Senators, pass the House of Representatives by a respectable majority. In this case no doubt is entertained that it will receive the approval of the President, as it is in accordance with his recent recommendation to Congress. It is said that so much of the fractional currency is mutilated and lost (as much as four per cent. annually) that silver can take its place with no inconvenience to the public. The Government is able to purchase and coin silver at a profit, and can at an early period effect the substitution. The Secretary of the Treasury says the estimate of the Director of the Mint shows a gain in specie and bullion, in the last two fiscal years, of about $38,000,000, and the stock of specie in the country to be about $136,000,000. This, in connection with an annual production of about $70,000,000 of precious metals, affords encouragement that the stock of coin may, within a reasonable time, and with favorable legislation, be accumulated to an extent sufficient to enable the resumption of specie payments to be undertaken and maintained.

Look Out for Dealers

that represent they have White River Flour under other brands. This is often done to make sales.

#### STATE NEWS.

The Ressemer steel works in Scranton will be completed and in operation next June.

Jesse Bagley, aged eighty-nine years, died very suddenly while attending services in the Methodist Episcopal church at Lancsboro, Susquehanna county, on a recent Sunday.

The Nick Biddle, a locomotive that had seen thirty-four years of constant service on the Cumberland Valley Railroad, has just been retired. It was in its earlier years the wonder and admiration of the rural population of the valley, who never missed an opportunity of seeing it.

Mr. Abraham Yocum, blacksmith, residing between Potstown and Douglassville, left his home on Tuesday last, and has not since been heard from. Mr. Yocum had recently commenced the erection of a new house, in which he appeared to be taking much interest. From this fact and there being no known cause for his leaving, his sudden disappearance seems mysterious.

A few days ago good iron ore was discovered on the farm of Mr. Benjamin Evans, in Manheim township, Lancaster county, and the land, about eighty acres, has been leased by Mr. Daniel Prichard, residing in Plainfield township, Northampton county, who intends to proceed to operate forthwith. The indications are very favorable, the ore being found within four feet of the surface.

There appeared last week in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, notices of the deaths of six persons—two men and four women—who had lived to or beyond the advanced age of eighty years, to wit: Robert Rutherford, aged eighty-two; Jane Forrest, eighty-two; Ann Worthington, eighty-three; Thomas Wakeham, eighty-seven; Sarah McMichael, eighty-seven, and Margaret Purcell, ninety-five.

The heaviest shipment of steel and iron rails since the organization of the Bethlehem Iron Company was made from their works during the past few weeks. On Friday there were shipped from the works 540 tons of steel rails and 100 tons of iron rails, which were loaded on forty-four cars. On Saturday the shipments amounted to 360 tons of steel rails and 60 tons of iron rails, making a total of 880 tons of steel and iron rails in two days.

A Cambria county farmer is bothered with visits from the ghost of a defunct "Indian doctor," said ghost perdaining in the statement that if the farmer will dig at a spot indicated on his farm, at eleven o'clock on Christmas night, he will find a vast treasure buried by the aboriginal medicine man. The ghost also told him to look at one corner of the barn for the key of a carpet sack, the advice was followed and the key found. The farmer is now hunting a new place of residence, as he strongly objects to ghosts.

The Pottsville *Journal* says: Yesterday morning a man named Golden, a railroad repairman, was found in the house of a man named Michael Flanigan, at Bowman's patch, shot through the head, the brains oozing from the wound. The circumstances of his injury are a mystery. Flanigan could not be found and it is supposed he did the shooting. A search was instituted for him, but when we last heard he was not found. It is said that Golden's family have sent their way to America from the old country.

The York *Daily* of Saturday says: "Last week a man by the name of Snyder, living near Castle Fin, this county, while cleaning out a well into which he had descended, met with a fatal accident. A draw bucket filled with mud and stone had been drawn to the top of the well, which is some twenty feet deep, when the rope broke and the bucket, with its contents, fell on the man in the well killing him instantly. The shock was so sudden and severe that the chain, in striking the breast, broke a hole into it just the size of the chin. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn their loss.

A Mrs. Elizabeth Burns died in Philadelphia on the 12th inst., whose matrimonial career was remarkable. When quite young she married one Philip Shingle, but after living with him for a short time procured a divorce and married Bill Cregar, the celebrated counterfeiter, he having paid the expenses of the divorce case. As fair weather and wind will have married the woman from whom Cregar had been divorced. After sharing the fortunes of her counterfeiter husband for many years, during which time (of) were many times arrested for "shoving the queer," Mrs. Cregar secured another divorce, and married Peter Burns, with whom she was living at the time of her demise. A daughter of hers and Cregar's married a brother of this last husband, which somewhat complicated the family relations, the girl becoming at once sister-in-law to her own mother and step-father.

The penalty for selling empty oil barrels without first erasing the inspector's brand is a fine of $300 for every barrel sold, half to go to the informer, and half to the school fund of the district in which the offense was committed. Last week there visited Scranton four natty, bunco-like young gentlemen, hailing from Binghamton, N. Y., calling themselves by the firm name of Pope & Co., who immediately commenced to buy up empty oil barrels, refusing to purchase any from which the inspector's brand had been removed. They bought enough to bring their share of the fines up to $1400, when, before the innocent Scrantonians discovered their "little game." Pope & Co. were arrested on a charge of conspiracy, just as they were getting on the cars to leave the city, and were held in $1,000 each to answer. Many prominent firms violated the law in selling oil packages, and it may be that they will yet have to pay dearly for it.

It will be remembered that after all efforts to extinguish the fire in the Wilkesbarre Iron and Coal Company's coal mines, in Luzerne county, by flooding them with water, had been abandoned, the experiment of forcing steam into them was tried, although it was generally ridiculed. For months, day and night, the mines have been sealed, and all the steam that could be generated by the most approved appliances was forced into them. On November 30 the steam was discontinued, and on Friday last explorers entered at the "Empire" mine, and after carefully threading all the chambers except those that were charged with "fire damp," and coming out at the "Conyngham," they reported the fires all out and the result a perfect success. The Scranton *Times* says, this is considered one of the grandest achievements in modern coal mining, and proves that one of the great obstacles to mining, a mine on fire, has been overcome.

Eight or ten inches of snow fell in New York yesterday, and twenty inches are reported at Paterson, New Jersey. The storm is severe and extends throughout the Eastern and Middle States.

#### CHAN LAI SUN.

Letter from the Chinese Commissioner—Visit to Pittsburgh Postponed.

We have already reported the fact that a large number of our prominent citizens had addressed a letter to the Hon. Chan Lai Sun, Chinese Commissioner of Education, asking him to visit this city and lecture upon topics relating to China. It will be seen by the letter below that the distinguished gentleman cannot at this time comply with the request.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., December 8, 1874.

*Messrs. Blackmore, Fleming, Agnew and others:*

GENTLEMEN:—Your letter, signed by so many prominent and honorable gentlemen, requesting me to visit your cities, and speak upon topics relating to China and the Chinese, was duly received.

I feel highly honored by such an invitation. It would afford me great gratification to comply with your request. In my frequent correspondence with my reverend teacher, the Rev. Jos. S. Twaddell, I had expressed my intention to begin, sometime this month, to deliver lectures on the purpose of the Chinese Educational commission to this country, on the strange hieroglyphical writings of that more strange people; and on other kindred subjects. In fact, I had already prepared two lectures, and was on the eve of preparing a third, when I received a dispatch from my government to return to China as soon as possible, on very important business.

I have no alternative but to comply at once, and am now making all possible haste to go by way of England in one of the Cunard steamers, which leaves on the 16th inst. Before leaving I am obliged to visit the Chinese students scattered in Massachusetts and Connecticut, in order that I may give a full report concerning them to the government.

I sincerely regret the disappointment both to you and to me, occasioned by this sudden call, which of necessity changes all my plans. I will say, however, that on my return from China, I shall be happy to improve the earliest opportunity to comply with the wishes of the citizens of Pittsburgh, Allegheny City and vicinity, so kindly expressed in their communication to me.

I remain, your obedient servant,

CHAN LAI SUN.

MILLER, who was stabbed in the groin in a bar-room fight in Mt. Washington, early last evening, died at half past 11 o'clock. Dr. Kellar thinks he will not survive his injuries. There will be a hearing of the case against his assailants to-day, before Deputy Mayor Barker.

THE house of Mrs. McTighe, a huckster in the market, residing on Ann street, was visited by a burglar about two o'clock yesterday morning, who stole $60 from a bureau drawer.

Use Non-Explosive Oil.

Sold by T. C. Jenkins, Checkered Front. Every dealer should have it.

#### COMMISSIONER SPREEN.

Investigation into the Alleged Frauds—The Testimony Taken.

The sub-committee of the Street Committee of Pittsburgh Councils appointed to investigate the charges made against Street Commissioner Spreen, of the Sixth district, South Side, met on Saturday afternoon. It will be remembered that the charges were presented to Councils by citizens of the South Side, and were then referred to the Street Committee, by whom Spreen was suspended and Charles Ott appointed *pro tem.*

Messrs. Turney, Rafferty, Liddell and Macfarlane, of the investigating committee, together with City Attorney Bigelow, representing the city, and H. H. McCormick, Esq., the defendant. Mr. Spreen was not present, being confined to his house by illness.

The pay rolls for the Sixth district were produced, and the explanation that the check in favor of Fred Kimold, one of the employees of Mr. S. for $39 81, was returned to the Controller and canceled, it having been discovered that the work should have been paid for by private parties.

AN EMPLOYEE EXAMINED.

John Kuckert testified that Christian Voight was on the pay roll for $3 75 during July, and that he (Voight) was in the country during that month; that Mr. Spreen had his father-in-law on the pay roll for a horse and cart. Voight did not work in September till the 21st; knew Voight was not working. Glosser was driving his cart, but Voight figures on the pay roll—Glosser did not work a full month either—not more than a half month during September; I kept time for Spreen in September and October; Glosser did work more than one-half a month for the city; the rest of the month worked around Spreen's feed store. There are four men on the September pay-roll who were not working; these were Thomas Duran, Pat. Moreland, Joseph Streichel and Pat. Welsh; I think they were not employed by the other foreman, Mr. Kountz, because Mr. Kountz told me so himself.

Mr. Kuckert was then cross-examined by Mr. McCormick, as follows: Am a laborer: did not keep the time for Spreen in June, July or August; I kept it only in September and October for one gang; I made my returns to Spreen; don't remember when I said that Spreen had

FALSELY PUT THESE MEN ON THE PAY-ROLL;

in August, I think it was, "I saw Voight's name on Spreen's book; I was working myself as a laborer, during the time Voight was away, and that's the way I know he wasn't working; I never had any difficulty with Spreen; he never discharged me; I first told this story to 'Squire Schafer; it was about two weeks after I discovered the thing first. Schafer asked me about it first; I did not tell him about it until he asked me.

Mr. McCormick—How long, Mr. Kuckert, has it been since you were organ-grinding?

Mr. Kuckert (rilling up)—I didn't come here to be blackguarded.

Mr. McCormick—That's not a proper question at all, Mr. McCormick.

OTHER TESTIMONY.

This closed the examination of this witness, and Henry Glosser, Sr., the father of Glosser, Jr., spoken of by Kuckert, was next called. Being a German, Councilman Braun was pressed into the service as an interpreter, and through him, Glosser testified as follows:

I worked for Spreen from June until the same time in November; I got $1 50 a day, except in October, when I got $2 a day; I got the increase in October because I was transferred to pavining; the pavers got more than the laborers; I worked twenty-four and three-fourths days in July. [The roll was examined, and in July it was found he was put down as getting $1 75.] My son got $1 60 [the rolls say $3 25]; my son drove the horse and cart belonging to Mr. Spreen.

August Esely was the next witness sworn, and testified as follows: I commenced to work in May for Spreen; I don't know for sure how many days I worked in May; I think it was ten days; I got $1 75 a day: [the roll says twenty-five days at $2 a day]; I worked in June, I think, about twenty-four days at $1 75 [the roll says 25½ days at $2]; I never kept any written account; boarded at Mr. Spreen's house; he kept back my boarding; paid him $3 a week for boarding; was a laborer; I worked in July, I think, about 23 days at $1 75; [the roll says 23 days at $2.]

To a question from Mr. Liddell the witness stated that Spreen, on Friday evening, agreed to give him the difference of twenty-five cents per day.

Mr. McCormick, at this stage of the proceedings, asked that further investigation be postponed until Mr. Spreen could be able to appear and defend himself. The speaker was not familiar with the case, and he would like to have Mr. Spreen here. He thought he would be able to be out in about ten days.

Considerable discussion took place, and Mr. McCormick stated that if a deficiency was found it would be fully made up.

Some members were in favor of concluding the case on the testimony.

It was finally decided to meet again on Saturday next.

#### IMPORTANT ARREST.

Supposed Murderer Captured in this City

Detectives Wilmot and Pender, of the Mayor's office, last evening arrested a young man at No. 9 Wylie avenue, who is supposed to be the perpetrator of the murder of Neal McBride, a coal miner, at Janesville, Luzerne county, this State, in February last. The name of the perpetrator of the deed is Neal Paul, and it is believed by the detectives and others that the prisoner answers the description fully. Mr. Wilmot has been in correspondence with Officer Graham, of Janesville, for some time, and has in his possession a photograph of the criminal. The prisoner gives his name as John McGinley, and denies identity with Paul, or that he was ever connected with a murder. He is very reticent and gives no account of himself whatever. Officer Wilmot has been on the look out for Paul for some days, and says that the man has been in this city for ten days past. The officers are unable to give any particulars of the murder. A dispatch announcing the arrest has been sent to Janesville, and an officer is expected from there to-day.

#### Fatal Accident at the Opera House.

A fatal accident occurred Saturday evening about five o'clock, at the Pittsburgh Opera House, to one of the scene-shifters. Two employees of that theater were down in the boiler-room, when suddenly they heard a noise behind them, and upon examination they discovered the lifeless body of Robert McFarland, the scene-shifter. Dr. Rodgers, who was called in, found the man's neck was broken. Coroner McCallen held an inquest on the body, and the jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the above facts. Deceased was a single man, residing at 47 Fayette street. How he came to fall is not known. The deceased, besides being engaged in the Opera House, was working at the harness making trade, and was employed for a long time in a Wood street establishment.

A Reward is Offered

for a flour that will make as much or as good bread as the great White River, for the price.

THE GREAT PATENT

White River Flour

Guaranteed the Best Flour in the country at the price. Money Refunded if Flour is not as represented.

HEADQUARTERS FOR

HOMINY, OAT MEAL,

GOSHEN CHEESE, OIL, &c.

THE GREAT IRISH SOAP.

☞ No Retail House connected.

#### COMMISSIONER SPREEN.

Temperance Mass Meeting

A temperance mass meeting will be held under the auspices of the Women's Temperance Alliance, on Tuesday (to-morrow) evening, at 7½ o'clock, in Smithfield Methodist Episcopal church. Addresses will be delivered by Rev. W. A. Gill, of Central Presbyterian church, Allegheny; Rev. W. B. Watkins, Rev. A. W. Butts, Mrs. A. Hill, Miss L. A. Haller and others. The exercises will be interspersed with excellent singing by competent persons engaged specially for this occasion. This is said to be a "new departure," and the work is to be done otherwise than by crusading.

DOO

# The Commercial.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1874.

THEY are asking, at Washington, whether the passage of the Civil Rights bill will "pay"? The true question is, whether justice will endure.

THE professed conversion of the Democracy to ways of retrenchment and reform, reminds one of nothing so much as of the gallows religion of historic criminal polrroons.

IT IS to be hoped that those eminent Philadelphia "spiritualistic" philosophers who have recently paid so terrible a penalty for their credulity will not readily forget the lesson.

THE Chicago *Tribune* corrects its report that the Baltimore and Ohio road had joined the Saratoga combination, and now says that it is not true. The old hostility continues, but how long will it last?

ONE of the late "reform" candidates for Congress in Wisconsin has just been convicted on a criminal indictment for defrauding the revenue. We really have no heart to moralize on this sad subject!

THE Republicans made such a clean sweep in Lowell, Mass., at the municipal election, last week, that only two Democrats were elected in the whole city, an Assistant Assessor and a member of the School Board for one year.

A CORRESPONDENT requests us to inform him when the *Post* was established. We cannot tell. All that we know is, that it belongs to the paleozoic formation, and that it strenuously insists upon the incorrectness of the Mosaic chronology.

SUNSET COX is bent on securing the perpetual future ascendancy of the Democratic party, if it be possible. He has served notice that when his party comes into power it will kill the Bureau of Education. The triumph of ignorance and of Democracy go hand in hand.

Two members of the Legislature elected in November have since died—one of them a Democrat and one a Republican; and two others are so unwell that they cannot attend the assembling of the House. One of these is Judge FARREL, Republican, of Washington county, and the other is JOHN HANNAN, Democrat, of Cambria county.

IT IS an item of consolation to the long-depressed oil interest to note that the advance on crude oil during last week was ten cents per barrel, and that since December 1st the advance has been fully twenty cents per barrel. The advance is not large, but it is sure and steady, and if it continues, why, as Colonel SELLERS says, "there's millions in it."

WE WOULD remind our contemporaries of the press, many of whom comment on the murder of OATMAN, the Superintendent of the Durgoosa Coal Works, as having been committed by some of the miners on a strike, that there is, as yet, no evidence to connect the miners with that outrage, and that it is hardly fair to charge them with it upon bare suspicion.

AN EASTERN publisher parades the titles of four works of fiction published by him, and which no one ever heard of before, as "The Four Great Novels of the Year!" He is mistaken in his classification. The four great novels of the year are the New York *World*, Chicago *Times*, Cincinnati *Enquirer* and Pittsburgh *Post*. For pure fiction they excel all other publications.

"How shiftless!" The Georgia papers complain that the principal wants of that State are cheap manure, cheap fuel and cheap iron, notwithstanding the fact that there are immense limestone quarries on the line of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, that there are strata of coal on Lookout Mountain nine feet thick, and that it has more iron ore than our own of State. Georgia is the MICAWBER Commonwealth of the Union.

THERE is going to be trouble between the Northern and Southern members of the National Democratic choir. The present tone of the latter reminds one of the wheezy-throated deacon who, on being request to desist from singing in church, just after the purchase of a new organ, because his voice interfered with the harmony, remarked: "Look-a-here; I paid $500 towards buying this darned old gospel box, and, by thunder, I will sing." And they are going to do it, too.

BETTER times are ahead. During the three weeks from the first of January ensuing, a total of not less than $150,000,000 will be distributed in dividends on government, railroad and other securities in New York alone. Including Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and other business centers, the aggregate will be largely increased, and will reach a total of several hundreds of millions. All the indications are favorable for a decided improvement in business from and after the beginning of the New Year.

MR. DAVENPORT, the United States Commissioner of Elections, in New York, refers in a published letter of his to the *World*, to a Democratic precinct in that city which, in off years, when there are no United States Supervisors to watch it, polls or returns 375 votes; but in the years when there are Congressmen to elect, and the United States Court authorizes election supervisors to be appointed, polls or returns only forty-two forty-four votes. The falling off in years when the polls are honestly watched is very remarkable, especially when it is known how hotly the Democrats are opposed to election frauds.

DURING the ascendancy of the Republicans in this State, the Democrats were very much shocked at reports that the legislative patronage was controlled by a combination between Allegheny county and Philadelphia, and Col. TALLEY, a Democratic member of the House, and a candidate for Speaker, is very much mortified to find that a similar combination has been made this winter, by which Allegheny county is to get the Speakership of the House, and Philadelphia the Clerk. It is all wrong, of course, Mr. TALLEY, but it would be all right, wouldn't it now? if it made Mr. TALLEY Speaker instead of PATTERSON. The thing that galls TALLEY is not the combination, but the way it works.

THE British Board of Trade gives us the latest figures relating to the importation into English ports of wheat, flour and cotton, the period being brought up to October 31, or three months later than the last monthly report received from our own Treasury Department. During the ten months ended at that date, Great Britain received from us 20,445,461 hundred weights of wheat, against 15,277,836 hundred weights for the corresponding season last year, and 2,975,296 hundred weights of flour, against 1,147,164 hundred weights for the same period of 1873. In cotton the results have been equally satisfactory, showing an increase of nearly twenty millions of dollars. The foreign commerce of the country promises to equal, if not exceed that of almost any previous year.

THE Chicago *Times*, of Saturday, publishes an exhaustive review of the trade and commerce of that city for the year now drawing to a close, from which it appears that the aggregate sales of its wholesale houses have been nearly twenty-nine million dollars in excess of the sales for 1873. No failures of any note have occurred during the year, while in grain, live stock, provisions and lumber the result of the year's business is also gratifying. All the industrial interests of the city have more than held their own, and the banking capital is now $1,000,000 larger than at the close of the corresponding season of last year. If, now, it would only give some due attention to the improvement of its morals, what a noble interoceanic metropolis Chicago might in process of time become.

IN THE Senate debate on the District of Columbia bill all the Democrats who have spoken, have declared themselves hostile to universal suffrage. They do not believe that the people are capable of self-government, and therefore they insist that Congress should step in and prevent the people of Washington City from exercising the right of suffrage and from any participation in managing their own affairs. This is Democracy in its unadulterated form. But why do not Messrs. THURMAN and BAYARD, and the other Democratic Senators, apply their Tory doctrine to other cities, as well as Washington? The people of Washington are as capable of self-government as the people of New York, for instance; and if the doctrine is good as applied to Washington City, it is just as applicable to New York. It is true that the American Revolution was based upon the demand that there should be no taxation without representation; but your genuine Democrat is a genuine Tory, at bottom, and thinks the Revolution was as unjustifiable as was the effort to put down the Rebellion of 1861.

## ITALY AND FRANCE.

The "interview," a recognized institution in the United States, is not unknown in France. A reporter of a leading Paris journal recently succeeded in "interviewing" M. THIERS on the subject of his late sojourn in Italy and of the present condition of parties in France. As to the latter topic the reporter did not deem it discreet to publish all that the great man said; he had, however, no hesitation in stating that, in the opinion of M. THIERS, President MACMAHON must choose between the monarchy and the republic, the empire having no show. M. THIERS farther thinks that while monarchy has a good many adherents, France is really, indubitably republican. "Everything proves it," said the old statesman, "and I see grave difficulties for the Marshal if he hesitates between the republic and monarchy." All this was said in anticipation of the meeting of the Assembly. M. THIERS thought that the Republican party, on the meeting of the Assembly, instead of assuming the energetic attitude expected by many, would quietly await events.

Some will recollect that while M. THIERS was in Italy, last summer, the strangest and most contradictory statements were published in Paris concerning the treatment he was receiving among the Italians. These statements were, of course, made for political effect. Questioned on the subject, M. THIERS said that he had been well received everywhere. "The Italians are our friends, and we ought to continue theirs. Italian unity is accomplished forever: it is a fact to be taken account of." "There was a time," he remarked, "when Frenchmen were not much inclined to accept Italian unity; but at the present day Italian unity exists; it must be recognized; we must preserve the affection of the Italians, who will love us as long as we shall not countenance clericalism."

Apropos of clericalism in France, it is a significant fact, that Mgr. DUPANLOUP, Bishop of Orleans and member of the National Assembly, has lately published a pamphlet on the condition of the Papacy. In it he represents the "Roman question" as still unsettled. He earnestly maintains that by the overthrow of the temporal power, the Pope has become, for all official purposes, a prisoner, and is divested of the conditions indispensable to the free exercise of his spiritual power. He is in fact a subject of VICTOR EMANUEL'S, and "notwithstanding the ridiculous and insulting guaranty laws," he is a "less free subject of the King of Italy than the poorest citizen of Rome, who may go in and out as he pleases." This, says Bishop DUPANLOUP, the Pope cannot do, and then the Bishop argues that it is highly dangerous for Italy to leave His Holiness in this position of constraint, as while thus left he cannot but regard and treat the Kingdom of Italy as an illegitimate dominion. Under such circumstances Italian statesmen would consult the true interests of their country they would spontaneously propose the only peaceable solution of the question by surrendering and restoring the temporal power to its rightful claimant; at any rate they would propose a conference of the Catholic powers and submit to whatever they should determine regarding the future position of the Holy Father.

But the most interesting feature of the Bishop's pamphlet is a distinct threat, that when the Ultramontane party, to which he belongs, shall obtain a controlling influence in France, there will certainly be another expedition for the purpose of expelling from Rome the robbers of St. PETER'S patrimony. In this menace there can be no doubt that the Bishop of Orleans expresses the mind of a great majority of the French clergy. Of course those laymen who sympathize with Ultramontanism heartily sustain the policy. It is, therefore, not strange that many Italians feel uneasy, and make their good will toward Frenchmen dependent, as M. THIERS says, upon their hostility to "clericalism." The present government of France has given satisfactory evidence of its opposition to all interference with Italian unity, and of its desire to maintain friendly relations with Italy. It has yielded to the request of the Italians to withdraw the war ship Orenoque from the port of Civita Vecchia, and it is understood to consider favorably still another Italian request. While France continues represented at the Vatican court by a full ambassador, Italians find difficulty in believing that it fully recognizes the abrogation of the Pope's temporal power. The withdrawal of this ambassador and the transfer of his duties to a member of the French Legation at Rome are concessions which President MACMAHON'S cabinet is believed willing to make. But if, as some allege, these efforts on the part of the French government to conciliate Italy are due to a single member, the Duc DECAZES, the Italians cannot reasonably feel much satisfaction in them. For the present and the near future, of course, the Italians have nothing to fear. France is not prepared to interfere with Rome or any other foreign city, and there are other powers, or rather another power, which would not permit French interposition against Italian unity. But with reference to the time to come, the long future, the Italians would be singularly stupid or indifferent if they did not dread another French expedition against Rome, when they recall the past. In fact, the practice of interfering with Italy has become almost a habit of the French people, whoever may rule them: they occupied Rome during the whole period between 1849 and 1870, and with the devoutly Catholic portion of the people the most cherished recollections of their national history are associated with expeditions for the rescue of the heritage of PETER. No wonder the Italians feel anxious, especially when they hear of clerical agitation in favor of a repetition of the old exploits.

CARL SCHURZ very honorably, and very, decidedly, declines to seek any favors from the Democratic party. He says:

> How can any man with common sense expect me, with my principles, to support the Democratic party? Can I do such a thing with my record—sacrifice my whole career for the sake of a seat in the Senate?

MR. SCHURZ is now, as he always has been, a Republican. We have no doubt he regrets that, goaded by the treatment he received from some of the friends of the administration at Washington, he committed the folly of leaving the ranks of his party to right the wrongs he felt he had been subjected to; and we have as little doubt that, when the battle is again joined between the State sovereignty men and the Republicans, he will be found actively at work with the latter.

## PERSONAL.

"Scurry Mike" and "Dreadful Tom" are the candidates for Mayor of Grass Plains, Nebraska. Both are running on the anti-grasshopper ticket.

The lady who personated Katie King in the Holmes seances at Philadelphia, and so grossly deceived Robert Dale Owen and other credulous spiritualists, is a widow. "Bevare of vidders!"

Hereditary transmission of tendencies. There is in Hornellsville, New York, a minister of one of the parish churches who occupies the pulpit which his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather have filled in succession, and who is training his son to be his successor.

Aunt Betty, the last of the ex-slaves in the State of New York, died recently at Throopsville. She was nearly a hundred years old. She distinctly remembered Washington's election to the Presidency, and his death, and also many events of the war of the Revolution and the war of 1812.

King Kalakaua has an invitation to visit Westboro', Massachusetts. The extending of the invitation was prompted by the fact that an old resident, Mrs. D. Chamberlain, was one of the original band of missionaries to the Sandwich Islands when the natives were savages. Mrs. Chamberlain still retains her faculties, and speaks the Hawaiian tongue fluently.

Shame! Mrs. Evangeline Trenifidi, a friend and the daughter of a life-long friend and correspondent of the late Senator Sumner, a lady who has a poem which she has written to deliver to his memory, was last week ejected from her boarding house, in Washington, for inviting a respectable colored gentleman, who ministers to one of the Methodist churches in that city, into the parlor long enough to take his name and number.

The intelligence of the death of Commander William B. Cushing, of the United States Navy, whose funeral took place yesterday, will be received with profound sorrow, not only by those whose hearts were with the Government during the war of the rebellion, but by all who appreciate heroism. His was one of the grandest characters developed by the war. His memory is worthy to be embalmed in verse and handed down as a precious legacy to succeeding generations. The lesson of how to fight for one's country is not frequently so taught as it was by Commander Cushing.

## GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Large cheese factories are springing up throughout Missouri, Iowa and Kansas.

"Gath" drops a tear over Sylvanus Cobb. Gath himself is a small novelist.

As a White League journal the New York *Tribune* is becoming a great success.

Five thousand men are now employed on the Centennial buildings and grounds.

The very cheapest thing in the United States at the present time is human labor.

The Philadelphia mediums have dematerialized; gone to their long Holmeses.

The best quality of Secretary Bristow is his ability to stand pressure. He has backbone.

It is even so that journeymen tailors in China are happy with two cents a day for wages.

Vinnie Ream is again pestering Congress. As a lobbyist she would make a real good model.

Minister Baker escaped Thanksgiving, but he says he is weary of Turkey, nevertheless.

The mild weather has produced a second growth of strawberries in many Southern localities.

There are more idle miners among the coal miners of Ohio now, than at any time since the panic.

We take the alleged discovery of gold quartz in Northern Wisconsin with many pints of allowance.

Spirited times, yet. There were forty-four million gallons of whisky in the country on November 15th.

Significant. Locomotives made in Germany or Belgium are running on English as well as Russian railways.

The first regular street night watch was ordered by Henry III., in London, in 1253. It was from sunset to sunrise.

Is it a joke, or a prediction? Dean Stanley is already getting ready a corridor for urns at Westminster Abbey.

"Birds in their little nests agree." But the Democratic aspirants for the Pennsylvania Senatorial succession, don't.

The *Galaxy* makes a feature for next year of papers from prominent men of the South, giving the Confederate side of the war.

Cincinnati spends eight million dollars for intoxicating drinks, every year, and wants to know what is to become of the poor.

The Virginia Legislature has decided on a Christmas recess of only three days, and a suspension of *per diem* during that period.

The kernel of that Pacific Mail Steamship affair seems to be that the company took $650,000 from the safe, and forgot all about it.

Weston's pedals have at last equaled his ambition. He has succeeded in his great undertaking of walking five hundred miles in six days.

Should King Kalakaua conclude to make a progress through the Southern States, would he be relegated to a second-class railway coach?

New discoveries of gold, silver lead, etc., are reported almost daily at Amesbury, West Newburyport, Byfield and Boxford, Massachusetts.

Relapse. There are more deer and wild turkeys, and wild-cats and lynxes, in Virginia to-day, than there were when the colony was settled.

Stockwell is the suggestive name of the ex-President of the Pacific Mail Company, who is said to have disposed of $750,000 in stock operations.

With all the cry of destitution and poverty in the South, the commercial facilities of that section were never better than at the present time.

A coming demand. Since the panic of September, 1873, the railroads of the country have purchased only about one-tenth as much iron as formerly.

That intellectual body, the Common Council of Joliet, Ill., have decreed that the Irish language shall be taught in the schools of the penitential city.

The Mayor of Omaha got over the difficulty of attempting to pronounce the name of Kalakaua, by addressing him as "Mr. King." He had the king there.

The New York Central and Boston and Albany Railroads have adopted the principle of reducing their local freight rates to conform to the through rates.

The amount of poison used in the South and West to protect the growing crops is enormous, and is becoming a source of great danger. Paris green is used by the ton.

Why not amend the Constitution so as to give those 132,000 District of Columbia citizens, now disfranchised, a Representative in the House and a vote in the electoral college?

Without any foster-patron, John Foster, an explorer, recently completed a journey across northern Australia, an immense territory, about which nothing has hitherto been known.

"Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Mr. Flood, of San Francisco, is said to have made thirty millions of dollars, recently, by the fluctuations in California mining stocks.

Isn't it a little strange that of all the brilliant women contributors to the *Atlantic Monthly*, not one was present at the supper given by the publishers at Boston, the other evening?

The Merrimack river never was so low before at this season as now. Last week the factories at Lawrence began drawing on Lake Winnipiseogee, N. H., for a water supply.

The times are so hard that even the lakes are touching bottom. The water in Lake Champlain is at present fourteen inches lower than the oldest inhabitants ever knew it to be before.

Think of it! The mud in all the streets of Virginia city, Nevada, contains silver, and a recent analysis of a lump taken up at random shows that the sample contained at the rate of $7 54 to the ton.

A new potato with a rare flower, known as the white queen, is being cultivated in France. In good soil from twelve to fifteen tubers are formed, many of which reach twenty-two pounds.

The Maine ice dealers last winter put up 800,000 tons of ice, and then asked such a high price for it that they sold but half of it. The rest is on their hands, as dead stock, and nobody is sorry for it.

A Chicago "good Samaritan" will soon become an euphonious expression for malice, envy, spite, hatred, backbiting, slandering, evil-speaking, and every conceivable form of uncharitableness.

Common people will admire the courage of the Indianapolis man who has begun suit for $40,000 damages against his mother-in-law, alleging that he has sustained injury to that amount through the alienation of his wife's affections.

Of the Washington *Chronicle* it might, in the language of Oliver Wendell Holmes, be said:

> "Thou mindest me of gentlefolk.
> Old gentlefolk are they.
> Thou sayest an unpolished thing
> In such a solemn way."

Two men, representing themselves as California miners, recently forwarded from Milwaukee a lot of gold quartz to the New York Assay office, which netted them $1,700 in gold. They said they dug it up in the northern part of Wisconsin, but refused to tell where.

Cheap transportation. For the year now closing, the average rate for the conveyance of one hundred pounds of grain from Chicago to New York by the Central road and its connections has been forty-three and three-fourth cents, against fifty-two cents in 1873, and fifty-five and a half cents in 1872.

The beef packers at Kansas City have this year slaughtered 50,000 cattle and packed the beef for exportation. This is the largest amount packed at any point in the United States. The cattle were mainly from Texas, and it is said that a great many Texas cattle are now butchered in Colorado and the fresh meat forwarded by rail, in cars fitted up for the purpose, to the Eastern cities. This is found to be better than transporting the cattle alive.

## Obituary—Hon. James L. Gwinn.

The Altoona *Tribune* of the 18th says: The many friends and the people generally of Blair county, will be pained to learn of the death of Hon. James L. Gwinn, which sorrowful event occurred at his residence in Logan township, yesterday morning, after a lingering illness. Deceased represented Blair county in the State Legislature during the years of 1853-4, and during his life he held several important offices. He creditably filled the office of Associate Judge, and for a number of years was County Surveyor. For a long time past he has been a Ruling Elder in the First Presbyterian church, of this city, and was in his fifty-eighth year at the time of his death. There is doubtless no man in Blair county whose death will be more universally regretted than that of the subject of this notice. He was everywhere known and respected, while his knowledge of farm lands, farm courses, distances, etc., throughout Blair, Huntingdon and Cambria counties was invaluable.

## FROM BEAVER FALLS, PA.

**Manufactories All Running — Improvements to be Made by the Economites — Political Matters — The Local Option Question, etc., etc.**

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

BEAVER FALLS, PA., December 19, 1874.

Nothing new or of startling importance has occurred worthy of note. The general stringency in money matters affects somewhat the manufacturing interests of this place, for upon these is the main dependence of our people. Our manufactories are, all of them, running on nearly or quite full time, and we have heard of no "cut" in wages. There is room for new enterprises, which, we doubt not, will be occupied if times brighten. The purchase of the canal for several miles above the town, by the Harmony Society of Economy, that they may be permitted to erect another and larger dam across the river, gives prospect of material improvement to the town. When this project shall be completed according to the plan we understand contemplated, the reservior of water held in supply for manufacturing purposes will be immense, being contained in the bed of the river known as the "slackwater," extending up stream from seven to ten miles, making ample provision for a large number of factories during the longest and driest summer. An inexhaustable supply of coal, with other facilities, adds to the desirableness of the locality for manufacturing purposes.

Beaver Falls is becoming, more ways than one, an important place. In the politics and morals of the county we occupy a sort of balance of power situation. In politics, it goes Republican so goes the county, usually. This was forcibly exemplified in the election of Assemblymen at the late election. Though the Democratic party is largely in the majority in the county, they succeeded in electing their man to the Legislature. There were several causes which tended to produce this result. While Mr. Graff, we think, has adhered strictly to his party politics, he has done so in such a manner as has not caused him to be obnoxious to his many personal friends in the Republican party. He is largely identified with the manufacturing interests of the place, and from his position must be fully posted as to the wants of manufacturers and well qualified to legislate understandingly, if legislation be needed. It speaks much for the personal popularity of the representative, that in a precinct largely Republican, he should receive such a majority as to give him, in the county, a greater number of votes than was received by either of his Republican competitors. A very general satisfaction at the result appears to exist, which, it is hoped, will not cease during the term for which he is elected. He has no enviable position, for Beaver county is not a unit upon the subject of local option. He has been elected to the position in the belief, upon the part of the advocates of local option, that he will vote against the repeal of the law, while the advocates of "free whisky" or "license" are confident that he will favor them. The "straight out-and-out" temperance men gave him their votes and "worked" to his interests, while those who "take it straight" were no less active in the same effort. To an outsider, the scene was somewhat amusing. We presume it was none the less so to the candidate, who could congratulate himself that the war of opinion would in any event be to his advantage.

As is well known, Beaver county voted largely in favor of local option, and since that law became the law in the county it has been unlawful to traffic in intoxicating liquors. There has, however, been plenty of whisky to be obtained in the county, especially in Beaver Falls. For a time there was an attempt to evade the law by the formation of "clubs," but this being decided unlawful, they were abandoned. It is said "forbidden fruit is sweet." This may in part account for the illicit traffic that has been carried on in the county. That this will ever be so cannot be claimed by many, who urge this as a reason for the repeal of the law, and a return to license. It has been said that there has been more intemperance in town than during license times. This is evidently a mistake, though by the frequent violation of the law the good which was hoped for in local option has not been realized. The traffic has been abridged, but not stated. The old decades of license are not so law-abiding as to feel conscience-stricken in its violation, else they would not sell in violation of the law. The desire for repeal is evidently that they may be free from the penalty for violation of law, it being easier to pay license fees than fines, and undergo imprisonment.

A strict license law, can be in no way a remedy for the evil nor a hindrance to illegal traffic. In any enforced license law men of intemperate habits and minors would be debarred from purchase. When the whole traffic is illegal, unprincipled men sell to these parties in violation of law. No observing citizen of our town has failed to observe a difference in the times of license and local option. Then drunken brawls and arrests were infrequent. Now it is seldom the police are compelled to use the borough "lock-up" for the incarceration of drunken men. Either there are many less drunken, or the dealer neglects to advertise his vocation by thrusting his patrons upon the street in a drunken condition. Interested parties in favor of the community give great praise to our President Judge for the manner in which he has conducted the recent trials for violation of the law. Without fear, favor or impartiality, he has passed sentence upon offenders who were found guilty of violation of law. There were, at the term of Court now past, eleven parties arraigned for violation of law, *seven* of whom were from Beaver Falls. On the various indictments charged and proven there were placed aggregate fines amounting to about one thousand dollars, and imprisonment aggregating about six months, while some indictments were continued till the next term. There was, doubtless, some disappointment among the violators of the law, caused by the prompt manner in which sentence was pronounced, and while it is not supposed an entire embargo can be placed upon the traffic, it is hoped still further care will be observed to obey the law. While law exists safety can only be in its faithful observance. If the law is wrong, repeal it; if right, observe it and obey it; precept.

OCCASIONAL.

## FROM BLAIRSVILLE, PA.

**Court Week—Time and Money Wasted in the Trial of Trivial Cases—Candidates Coming to the Front—Oratorio—Fair and Festival—Death.**

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA., December 19, 1874.

Our county courts convened on last Monday, Judge Logan and Associates Dills and Irwin on the bench. The civil list contained fifty-four cases, and but three were tried, the remainder being settled, continued and *non prossed*. The three which were tried did not amount to $250. On the Quarter Sessions side the business was exceedingly light, and the cases tried were of minor importance—one in particular we would refer to. It was a charge of false pretense, the amount alleged to have been obtained being seventy-five cents. The case occupied some time for trial, and the jury rendered a verdict of guilty and county to pay costs. To our mind this looks like a very small business; such cases should never be permitted to have a status in our courts. We refer to have another week of court for the trial of civil cases only. The court adjourned on Thursday afternoon for want of business, and, if next week is no better, suitors will have a poor show to have their cases disposed of.

Judge Logan's term of office in this county will expire on the 31st. He has been on the bench for several years, and although a young man, he has, by his learned and impartial decisions, and the arbitrary decisions of our Supreme Court in cases tried before him and carried up, placed himself in the front rank of the judiciary of our State. We venture to say, there is not a member of our bar that does not much regret to lose him. The seat thus made vacant will be filled by Hon. John P. Blair, a member of our bar, also a young man of rare abilities and large practice. We do not hesitate a moment in saying the mantle of authority has been placed on the right shoulders. He will be a credit to our district, and to the judiciary of the State.

Candidates for the offices of Prothonotary, Sheriff, Commissioner and Auditor are beginning to cast about, feeling the way as to the probability of their success. For the office of Prothonotary A. C. Boyle, Esq., the present incumbent, will again be a candidate, and, as he will have no opposition, his re-election is conceded. If the entire county were carefully hunted over, we question very much whether his equal could be found. He has filled the position to the entire satisfaction of everybody, and the best judges in this matter are the members of the bar, who, if they had the selection to make, would be almost unanimous in their choice. In the casting aside all political proclivities, and selecting him for the office because of his qualifications. For the offices of Sheriff, Commissioners and Auditor there will be many candidates, and, of course, the one or ones having the greatest number of votes will be successful.

On next Tuesday evening the Indiana Lecture Association will give an oratorio, when will be presented the scene of Belshazzar of which we read in the fifth chapter of Daniel. From all we can learn, it will be rendered in the finest style. We are sorry the lectures are not better patronized from this end of the county. We have some, however, who take an interest, and are largely benefited. A special train will be run up, and persons can return home immediately after the lecture, so that the time really occupied does not exceed two hours.

The fair and festival for the benefit of the Catholic church will commence in the town hall on Monday night, and continue twelve nights. They propose to make the affair one of the most enjoyable ever held in our town. There will be a number of contests for valuable articles. They propose to serve up first-class meats and oysters at all hours, gotten up by such experienced persons as Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Connell. A large attendance is anticipated.

We are exceedingly sorry to chronicle the death of our esteemed and much respected citizen, Mr. A. B. Scott, the efficient ticket agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad at this place. He has been subject to frequent hemorrhages from the lungs during the past year, and it was in one of them that his lamp of life became suddenly extinguished. He was a man of undoubted integrity, an agreeable and pleasant companion, strictly honorable in all his dealings, whether in his private or official capacity, and a Christian gentleman. "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord, that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee." He was a member of the United Presbyterian church. B.

## Educated Oysters.

Before the railroad days our oyster growers used early in the fall to canvass the villages on the Hudson river for orders, to be filled just before the river should be closed with ice. The meaning of this is that these men committed themselves to supply oysters in the shell, with the guarantee that the bivalves thus supplied should not die before their time came. The oysters were actually kept alive during the greater part of the long winter. The fat bivalves were handled with some care, and were spread on the cellar floor, the round or lower side down, so as not to allow the liquor to escape. That such a life required a great change of capacity or habit in the bivalve is evident; and it needed a training, yes, an education, ere the oyster attained to such ability. And this was the way it was done: Beginning early in the fall, the cultivator of the oyster took up the fat bivalves from the bed where he had planted them, and laid them a little higher up on the shore, so that for a short time each day they were exposed out of the water. After a few days of this exposure by the retreating tide, they were removed a little higher still on the shore line, which gave them a little longer exposure to the air at each low tide. And this process was continued, each removal resulting in a longer exposure. And with what result? Two very curious ones—inurement to exposure, and the inculcation of a persistent habit of making preparation for the same. What! Providence in an oyster? Yes, when he's educated. When accustomed to this treatment, ere the tide retires, the oyster takes a good, full drink, and retains the same until the tide returns. Once, while waiting for the stage at a country hostelry, we overheard the following between two rustic pipliouers at the bar: "Come, Swill, let's take a drink." "Well, I don't know. Ain't dry myself. How's'ever, guess I will take a drink, for fear I might get dry!" With better philosophy on their side, these educated oysters twice in every twenty-four hours took their precautionary drink. The French method of oyster training is much more laborious. The adult bivalves are carefully spread out in the water, and periodical lessons are given to each one individually. Each oyster on this occasion receives a tap, not with a ferule, but with a small iron instrument. This causes the bivalve to close tightly. Finally the last day comes with its pronouncing tap. His education thus finished, it takes passage with its fellow-graduates for Paris. As a result of its education, it knows how to keep its mouth shut when it enters society. —*Popular Science Monthly.*

## Proposed Reunion and Encampment of the 126th O. V. I. in September, 1875.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

CADIZ, O., December 16, 1874.

A number of the surviving soldiers of the 126th Ohio volunteers met in the parlor of the Central Hotel here, to-day, to make the necessary arrangements for a reunion of the regiment next year. After a free discussion, they decided on holding it at this place, and the 7th of September, 1875, was the time fixed. On that day the regiment will go into camp and continue in camp two days. A great deal of interest is manifested here in the anticipated reunion, inasmuch as three of the ten companies of the regiment were raised in this county, and the members generally were the sons, brothers or other relatives of our best citizens. The 126th was one of the best regiments sent from Ohio during the war, and it was stated to-day by one of the officers that it had participated in eighteen battles—some of them the bloodiest of the war, and in the Wilderness campaign almost lost, killed, wounded and captured, over three-fourths of its entire number. Colonel Jack Weyand, of Beaver, Pa., was unanimously elected President of the society, and Captain McCoy, of Cadiz, as Secretary. J. K. Andrews, chaplain of the regiment, is the historian. D. B.

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New Banking Rooms,
Cor. Wood St. and Fourth Ave.,
Where its Officers will be pleased to see all its old customers and such new ones as may favor it with their patronage.
ALEXANDER BRADLEY.....President.
WILLIAM VANKIRK.....Vice President.
CYRUS CLARKE, JR.....Cashier.

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL BANK,
OF PITTSBURGH,
NO. 33 FIFTH AVENUE.
CAPITAL STOCK - - $500,000
J. W. COOK.....President.
R. W. MACKEY.....Vice President.
W. MCCANDLESS.....Cashier.

Allegheny Homestead Bank,
118 WOOD ST., Pittsburgh.
CAPITAL-$200,000
Stockholders Individually liable.
Discount days Tuesday and Friday. Six per cent. interest paid on Time Deposits. Deposits received from one dollar and upwards.
W. T. DUNN, President.
THOS. JONES, Jr., Vice President.
W. H. SMITH, Cashier.
WM. BLAKELEY, Solicitor.
DIRECTORS.
J. D. Strong, W. T. Dunn, C. Dettrich, Dan'l. Dale, H. W. Riggs, M. D., Thos. Jones, Jr., Jas. A. Thompson, S. Roehlbein, A. A. Anderson. MWF

THE SAFE DEPOSIT CO.,
OF PITTSBURGH,
Chartered by Special Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, for the
Safe Keeping of Valuables,
UNDER GUARANTEE, AND THE
Renting of Safes
IN ITS
FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF VAULTS.
BUILDING AND OFFICE:
No. 83 FOUTRH AVENUE, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Office Hours—From 8 o'clock A. M. to 5 o'clock P. M.
President.....HENRY LLOYD.
Vice President.....EDWARD GREGG.
Secretary and Treasurer.....W. M. LITTLE.

N. Holmes & Sons
BANKERS,
57 MARKET STREET, Pittsburgh
DEPOSITS RECEIVED IN PAR FUNDS AND CURRENCY.
COLLECTIONS MADE ON ALL THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADAS.

STOCKS, BONDS AND OTHER SECURITIES
Bought and Sold on Commission.
Particular attention paid to the Purchase and Sale of UNITED STATES SECURITIES. MWF

HART, CAUGHEY & CO.
BANKERS AND BROKERS,
CORNER FOURTH AVE. AND WOOD STREET.
PITTSBURGH, PA.,
(Successors to HANNA, HART & CO.,)
Dealers in Exchange, Coin, Coupons, &c.
Particular attention paid to the Purchase and Sale of GOVERNMENT BONDS.
SIGHT DRAFTS ON LONDON.

E. K. JAMISON, W. M. STEWART, J. H. KERSHOW.
ESTABLISHED 1855.
B. K. Jamison & Co.,
BANKERS,
N. W. Cor. Third and Chestnut Sts., Phila.
Dealers in Pittsburgh Bonds and all other investment Securities.
Loans negotiated on marketable collaterals at current rates.
Deposits of Banks and Bankers received, subject to check at sight. Interest allowed according to agreement.

Chas. Cambios & Co.
BANKERS AND BROKERS,
No. 38 South Third St.
PHILADELPHIA,
Dealers in GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, GOLD SILVER, &c.
Stocks and Bonds bought and sold on Commission. Particular attention given to Investments.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

LAING & McKALLIP,
DEALERS IN
GRAIN, FLOUR, FEED,
Baled Hay, &c.
GENERAL AGENTS FOR THE CELEBRATED
PHŒNIX, LOUISVILLE and ROSENDALE HYDRAULIC CEMENTS.
Calcined Plaster, White Lime.
SOLE AGENTS OF CELEBRATED
WILKESBARRE ANTHRACITE COAL.
347 Liberty Street,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

CALDWELL & CO.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
AND DEALERS IN
GRAIN, HAY AND PRODUCE,
205 Liberty St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Orders for shipment and consignment solicited and promptly attended to.

HENRY REA, Jr.,
PRODUCE COMMISSION MERCHANT,
Receives and Sells
GRAIN, SEEDS, HAY, MILL FEED, APPLES, POTATOES, BUTTER, EGGS, CHEESE, POULTRY, GAME, &c.
305 Liberty St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

FLOUR.
Best Brands of Winter and Spring Wheat Flour,
In store and to arrive. For Sale by
D. WALLACE.

PETROLEUM.

WARING BROS.,
Successors to Waring & King,
Commission Merchants in Petroleum and its Products.
49 Fifth Avenue.
Philadelphia address, WARING BROTHERS & CO., 30 Walnut street.

FIRE BRICK.

SAVAGE, GLADE & SAVAGE
Mountain Fire Brick,
WARRANTED EQUAL TO ANY FIRE BRICK IN THE MARKET.
J. & J. M. PORTER,
Manufacturers and Sole Agents for the sale of the above named Brands,
Also, Manufacturers of WEST VIRGINIA FIRE BRICK AND FURNACE LININGS
P. O. Address—NEW CUMBERLAND, W. VA.
Pittsburgh Office—No. 3 DIAMOND STREET, Monongahela House Building.

GLASS MANUFACTURERS.

PITTSBURGH FLINT GLASS WORKS
ESTABLISHED 1808.
BAKEWELL, PEARS & CO.,
Factory, Office and Warehouse, BINGHAM STREET, between Eighth and Ninth streets, South Side, Pittsburgh.
J. P. PEARS, B. BAKEWELL, JR.,
B. B. CAMPBELL.

WM. HOLMES.....JAMES IRWIN
JAMES IRWIN & CO.,
OIL OF VITRIOL, MURIATIC ACID, NITRIC ACID, ENGLISH GLAUBER OR GLAUBER SALTS, CAUSTIC SODA, And AQUA AMMONIA.
OFFICE—NO. 15 MARKET ST., PITTSBURGH.

ROOFING.

SLATE
ROOFING.
Aiken & Co.
CORNER
Liberty and Eleventh Sts.
Opposite the Grain Elevator, Pittsburgh, Pa.
SLATE DEALERS AND ROOFERS.
Sole Agents for the Celebrated
Chapman Slate.

GRAVEL
ROOFING.
Roofs Repaired.
W. B. LUPTON & CO.,
354 PENN AVE.

Hugh Woodside,
Roofer and Dealer in

SLATE!
Office—370 PENN STREET, opposite Fort Wayne Freight Depot,
PITTSBURGH, PA.
All Orders promptly attended to. Work done by experienced workmen.

Pittsburgh Steel Works.
ANDERSON & WOODS,
SUCCESSORS TO ANDERSON, COOK & CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
Best Refined Cast Steel
Of Every Description; Also, BEST
Refined German Plow & Spring Steel
CORNER ROSS AND FIRST AVENUE,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Sheffield Steel Works.
SINGER, NIMICK & CO.,
Manufacturers o All Descriptions of
STEEL.
BEST REFINED TOOL CAST STEEL.
CAST AND GERMAN PLOW AND SPRING STEEL.
CIRCULAR AND LONG SAW PLATES.
ELLIPTIC, PLAIN AND SPIRAL SPRINGS.
AXLES AND STEEL TIRE.
SHEAR, BLISTER AND BOILER PLATES.
STEEL FORGINGS MADE TO ORDER.
33 Water and 100 First Ave., Pittsburgh

FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, December 19, 1874.

The report of the condition of the national banks of New York city, received by wire to-day, shows a loss in reserve of $1,962,850. This brings down the total surplus reserve in excess of the legal twenty-five per cent. of the demand liabilities of the banks to about eight millions of dollars.

The unsatisfactory condition of affairs does not seem to be confined to this country. Depression and uneasiness manifest themselves in England and on the Continent equally with New York. In London we have the anomalous quotation of money at six per cent., while it is lending in New York at four and four and a half per cent. per annum. The Bank of England never thinks it has enough bullion, and is constantly trying to increase the balance in her vaults. The Bank of Prussia is alarmed at seeing its newly coined gold going away from it at such a rate as to suggest a serious doubt whether it will be possible to retain a gold coinage in that country, and whether it may not be necessary to resort in a large measure to silver again. The Bank of France is hoarding gold as a basis on future operations and as a preliminary to the resumption of specie payments. With this triangular fight going on between the three great monetary powers of the world, there are those who think the United States can go into their markets and withdraw two hundred millions of coin on which to resume specie payments.

—The struggle in Congress has commenced and there is little hope either of its cessation or satisfactory settlement. A bitter opposition has been developed to the recommendations of the President and Secretary of the Treasury, by leading members of the same party. If the public could be assured that there would be no financial legislation for ten years to come, there would be a basis on which to build future operations, and the great element of uncertainty, legislative interference, would be removed. The bugbear of "fluctuating gold" is mere talk, for not one merchant in a thousand cares a fig what is the price of gold. Contracts are made in currency and solvable in currency, and the purchasing power remains almost unalterable. The changing prices for gold during the past two or three years have not been sufficient to be considered a factor in the problem of profits. The importers are the only ones interested in an immediate return to specie payments, and it is their influence that brings the matter prominently before Congress.

—The local money market has presented so few changes during the past week, that there is little to be said regarding the situation different from our last report. The demand upon the banks from borrowers has been steadily active, and discount lines are pretty nearly up to the maximum. The bankers are favoring only those who have the strongest claims to consideration, and paper must be well supported in every respect to prove acceptable. In the meantime the inflow from deposits is moderate and business accounts are light.

—The Frankfort-on-the-Main Chamber of Commerce publishes the following official document relative to the new German currency: "On and after the 1st of January the official quotations will be based on the following values: For securities, the thaler at 3 reichsmark; 1 florin of Austrian florins at 2 reichsmark; Dutch and Austrian florins at 2 reichsmark; francs at 80 pfenning; the 5 Scovi German florins at 12 reichsmark; Dutch and Austrian florins at 2 reichsmark; rouble at 3.20 reichsmark; Hamburg mark banco at 1.50 reichsmark. For commercial matters, mortgage bonds, preferred stock, will be quoted in the same manner as the Government bonds, except Austrian National bank shares, which are quoted at so much each with 5 per cent. interest added, and English exchange, which will be quoted at so much each without interest. German railroad shares will be quoted in percents. Bills of exchange on London, which is quoted in reichsmark for £100."

—A comparison of the condition of the national banks at the date of their last report, October 2, and of February last, presents some interesting facts. This comparison shows that twenty-nine new banks have been started with a capital of about three millions.

The provisions of the new law allowing the banks to withdraw their bonds on the surrender of circulation has caused a reduction of circulation amounting to $6,500,000 and the withdrawal of a corresponding amount of bonds.

The loans and discounts are increased $55,500,000, the deposits are increased about sixty millions. Below we give an abstract of the reports for the dates mentioned as furnished by the Comptroller of the Currency in his annual report to Congress:

| Resources. | Oct. 2, 1874. | Feb. 2, 1874. |
|---|---|---|
| Loans and discounts | $460,870,627 | $404,961,098 |
| Overdrafts | 4,324,163 | 4,797,981 |
| U. S. bonds to secure circulation | 368,254,000 | 389,018,200 |
| U. S. bonds to secure deposits | 14,691,700 | 14,600,200 |
| Do. on hand | 13,313,500 | 12,942,450 |
| Other stocks, bonds and mortgages | 27,807,928 | 25,366,726 |
| Due from redeeming and reserve agents | 82,885,126 | 101,582,881 |
| Due from other banks and bankers | 39,635,369 | 36,424,001 |
| Real estate, furniture and fixtures | 18,112,926 | 16,043,741 |
| Current expenses | 4,798,598 | 3,961,477 |
| Premiums paid | 5,376,659 | 4,740,628 |
| Checks and other cash items | 12,296,416 | 10,209,553 |
| Exchanges for clearing house | 97,383,687 | 62,786,119 |
| Bills of other national banks | 18,422,818 | 19,972,336 |
| Bills of State banks | 27,705 | 2,300,919 |
| Fractional currency | 2,243,343 | 3,305,805 |
| Specie | 21,240,943 | 23,303,803 |
| Legal tender notes | 40,054,945 | 108,717,765 |
| U. S. certificates of deposit for legal tender notes | 42,800,000 | 37,235,000 |
| Five per cent. redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer | 17,054,106 | |
| Due from U. S. Treasurer | 3,295,843 | |
| Total | $1,871,180,942 | $1,808,460,527 |
| LIABILITIES. | | |
| Capital stock paid in | $462,765,121 | $450,853,401 |
| Surplus fund | 129,958,106 | 125,097,347 |
| Undivided profits | 51,564,457 | 50,230,067 |
| National bank notes outstanding | 333,225,298 | 329,602,952 |
| State bank notes outstanding | 964,997 | 1,078,986 |
| Dividends unpaid | 2,510,546 | 2,000,160 |
| Individual deposits | 699,068,995 | 605,356,324 |
| U. S. deposits | 7,302,155 | 7,276,959 |
| Deposits of U. S. disbursing officers | 3,927,978 | 5,044,624 |
| Due to national banks | 125,102,049 | 138,435,388 |
| Due to State banks and bankers | 50,718,007 | 48,112,223 |
| Notes and bills rediscounted | 4,197,392 | 3,448,828 |
| Bills payable | 4,966,727 | 4,275,092 |
| Total | $1,877,190,942 | $1,808,909,529 |
| Number of banks | 2,004 | 1,975 |

OFFICE OF TRADE & STONE,
BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 7 NEW STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19, 1874.

*To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:*

There has been another severe raid on the stock market to-day, and in several instances there has been further decline in prices, especially in Wabash and Northwestern common. The whole market has been subjected to a severe pull by the bears and at one time it looked as if we were likely to have another panic. For our part, we cannot discover any real cause for the events of to-day beyond the last effort of the bear clique to obtain new stocks at the lowest possible figures by alarming small holders. The street has been flooded with renewed reports of disaster to the Pacific Mail Company, but even the terrors of the investigation at Washington have failed to cause a much further decline in its price, and from all indications, it appears that some leading operators have begun to buy it. We do not think the same may be said of the Wabash. Union Pacific felt the effect of the depression in other stocks, but is steady at the close, and Western Union is lower than yesterday on announcements from the bears that the new cable is almost completed. Money remains easy at 3 to 4 per cent. on call.

YOUNG WALLEY.

—The following table shows the price of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

| December 19, 1874. | 10:30 A.M. | 11:30 A.M. | 12:30 P.M. | 1:30 P.M. | 2:30 P.M. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6s, 1881, coup | 113½ | 113½ | 113½ | 113½ | 113½ |
| 5-20's, 1862 | 113¼ | 113¼ | | | |
| 5-20's, 1864 | 113¼ | 113¼ | | | |
| 5-20's, 1865 | 113¼ | 113¼ | | | |
| 5-20's, 1865, new | 112¾ | 112¾ | | | |
| 5-20's, 1867, coup | 112½ | 112½ | | | |
| 5-20's, 1867, reg | 110½ | 110½ | | | |
| 5-20's, 1868, coup | 120 | | | | |
| 10-40's | 113¾ | 113¾ | | | |
| 10-40's, coupons | 113¾ | 113¾ | | | |
| Currency 6's | 117¼ | 117¼ | | | |
| New 4½ per cents | 107¾ | 107¾ | | | |
| Western Union Tel. | 81¾ | 81¾ | 82 | 82¼ | 82½ |
| Quicksilver | | | 37 | | |
| Pacific Mail | 37¾ | 37¾ | 37¾ | 37¾ | 38¾ |
| Adams Express | | | 82½ | 82½ | |
| Wells-Fargo Express | | | 82½ | 82½ | |
| American Express | | | 63¾ | 63¾ | 63¾ |
| New York Central | 87¾ | 87¾ | 87¾ | 87¾ | 87¾ |
| Erie | 27¾ | 27¾ | 27¾ | 27¾ | 27¾ |
| Michigan Central | 79¾ | 79¾ | 79¾ | 79¾ | 79¾ |
| Michigan Southern | 79½ | 79½ | 79½ | 79½ | 79½ |
| Illinois Central | | | 98 | | |
| Cleveland & Pitts | | | 87½ | | |
| Chicago & Northw'n | 45 | 44¾ | 44¾ | 44¾ | 44¾ |
| Do. preferred | | | 69 | | |
| Rock Island | 101 | | 101 | 100¾ | |
| St. Paul, common | 26¾ | 26¾ | 26¾ | 26¾ | 26¾ |
| St. Paul, preferred | 25¾ | 25¾ | 25¾ | 25¾ | 24¾ |
| Fort Wayne | | | | 94½ | |
| Ohio & Mississippi | 30¾ | 29¾ | 29¾ | 29¾ | 30 |
| Union Pacific | 34¾ | 34¾ | 34¾ | 34¾ | 34¾ |
| Harlem | | 131 | | | |
| Hannibal & St. Joe | | | 24½ | 24½ | |
| Do. preferred | | | | 41½ | |
| Iron Mountain | | | 20½ | | |
| Terre Haute | 9½ | 9½ | 9½ | 9½ | 9½ |
| Tennessee, old | | | | 70 | |
| Tennessee, new | | | | 70 | |
| South Carolina, July | | | | 26 | |
| South Carolina, Jan | | | | 26 | |
| Missouri 6's | | | | 97 | |

The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

| | Bid. | Asked. |
|---|---|---|
| Pennsylvania Central, sales | 52¾ | |
| Pennsylvania Central scrip | 35 | |
| Reading, sales | 39¾ | |
| United Companies of N. Jersey | 129 | |
| Mill Creek | 34½ | |
| Lehigh Valley | 61¾ | 62 |
| Allegheny Valley | 41¾ | |
| Central Transportation | 55 | |
| Empire Transportation | 55 | |
| U. S. & St. Louis m. bonds, sales | 74½ | |
| Gold | | 115¾ |

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, December 19.—Cotton, flour, grain and provisions quiet and unchanged. Whisky—demand fair and market firm at $1 02.

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL,
FRIDAY, December 19, 1874.

The general condition of the wholesale and jobbing markets at present is one of quiescence, as nearly all are waiting for the expiration of the holiday season, and the consequent invoicing at the first of the year before shaping future operations. Retailers have as a rule their holiday stock for future consumption on hand, and in general merchandise the trade is confined principally to small orders for immediate use. In grain, produce, provisions and groceries there is a slow movement, and transactions are rather limited. In values the principal movement of importance is the weakness in oats which took place on Saturday, and the generally offish feeling in provisions, which, although jobbing prices are quotably unchanged, show a tendency in sympathy with the weaker feeling in the Western markets. Poultry and game are in somewhat more active demand, and realized better prices.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flour, bbls | 1,998 | Apples, bbls | 697 |
| Cheese, lbs | 532 | Corn, sks | 750 |
| Wheat, bu | 1,020 | Barley, sks | 710 |
| Butter, pkgs | 54 | Oats, sks | 2,000 |
| Bacon (cs) | 130 | Potatoes, bus | 2,100 |
| Hay, bales | 250 | | |

The following table exhibits the receipts of the leading articles of produce by rail and river for the week ending Saturday, December 19th, 1874, compared with the similar receipts for the three preceding weeks:

Week ending—

| | [Nov. 28. | Dec. 5. | Dec. 12. | Dec. 19. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flour, bbls | 7,587 | 8,796 | 12,300 | 11,852 |
| Apples, bbls | 2,004 | 1,972 | 1,901 | 1,998 |
| Cheese, lbs | 3,087 | 307 | 1,567 | 1,054 |
| Corn, sks | 3,974 | 1,955 | 2,825 | 750 |
| Wheat, sks | 2,047 | 2,192 | 1,501 | 3,237 |
| Barley, sks | 6,824 | 9,159 | 2,170 | 10,113 |
| Oats, sks | 1,829 | 2,210 | 1,067 | 1,883 |
| Oats, sks | 5,220 | 7,472 | 17,321 | 16,651 |
| Butter, pkgs | 176 | 223 | 393 | 362 |
| Bacon, lbs | 9,569 | 9,250 | 5,750 | 5,000 |
| Bacon, cs | 95 | 180 | 355 | 360 |
| Potatoes, bush | 4,220 | 1,230 | 4,075 | 4,077 |
| Hay, bales | 1,888 | 2,225 | 1,963 | 2,230 |

The following quotations are prices realized on wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—The market continues rather quite, with transactions limited. Receipts are increasing, aggregating for the week 104,100 bushels, principally barley and oats. There is little change in prices except that oats are weak with a tendency toward inside prices. We quote choice Kentucky white wheat at $1 30@1 32; choice amber do at $1 28@1 30; good white $1 25@1 27; Ohio and Illinois do at 1 20@1 23; Ohio and Pennsylvania red winter at $1 20@1 23. Corn is very slow of sale at about previous prices. We quote 77@78c for high-mixed and yellow; 75½@76c for low-mixed. Ear is in fair supply but light demand with prices easy. The market is quotable at about 70@72c per bush. Oats were in slight demand, and there was a tendency toward inside prices. We quote at 64@65½c for white; 63@64c for mixed. Barley and rye were unchanged. The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at the principal points of accumulation, at lake and seaboard ports, in transit by rail or water, December 12, 1874, and stock afloat in New York harbor in canal boats, was as follows:

| | Dec. 12, 74. | Dec. 5, 74. | Dec. 13, 74. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat, bush | 12,128,941 | 11,676,501 | 9,017,007 |
| Corn, bush | 3,830,152 | 4,014,575 | 6,023,285 |
| Oats, bush | 1,469,469 | 1,625,157 | 2,297,455 |
| Barley, bush | 2,476,141 | 2,503,822 | 2,000,552 |
| Rye, bush | 204,160 | 197,038 | 183,229 |
| Total | 21,220,863 | 21,052,116 | 19,523,528 |

FLOUR—The receipts for the week were 11,292 barrels against 12,300 barrels last week. The following are the wholesale prices of the leading millers: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 20@ bbl; No. 1 amber wheat do $5 50; red wheat flour $6 10; in sacks 30c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 00@6 25; Wisconsin $5 75; Minnesota $5 75@6 00; red winter wheat flour $5 25@5 50; rye flour $5 75; Graham flour $5 75; self-raising flour $6 00 per barrel; in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. Superfine is selling at $4 00@4 50 per barrel; extra $4 50@5 00; extra family $5 00@5 50; fancy $5 50@6 00; patent $6 00@6 50; double extra $6 50@7 00; clear $5 00@5 50; straight XXX

# CITY MATTERS.

## Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 35, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 20, 1874.

| Time. | Bar. | Ther. | Hum. | WIND. Dir. | Force. | Weath. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 A.M. | 29.92 | 34 | 90 | E. | Light. | Clear |
| 2 P.M. | 29.75 | 38 | 80 | N. | Fresh. | Cloudy |
| 9 P.M. | 29.97 | 34 | 79 | N. | Fresh. | Foggy |

Mean barometer....29.90. Highest thermom....39
Mean thermom.....35. Lowest thermom.....32
Rainfall during day.....00

### City Printing.

The Printing Committee of Pittsburgh Councils met on Saturday afternoon, and discussed the question of a change in the municipal law to provide for work to be done and supplies furnished. The Chairman and Clerk were finally instructed to draw up an ordinance providing that the Controller hereafter advertise for proposals, to be submitted to the committee, for all job-printing, printing of the *Municipal Record* and furnishing of stationery.

### Religious Services at the Opera House.

The announcement that religious services would again be held at the Opera House, under the leadership of Major Whittle and Mr. Bliss, of Chicago, attracted another crowded audience last evening. Unfortunately both the gentlemen named were confined to their rooms by illness. Rev. T. H. Hanna, of the Second United Presbyterian church, was introduced and delivered a most interesting and instructive sermon.

### Resolutions of Respect.

At a meeting of the Grant Sub-District School Board, held on Saturday evening, December 19, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, It has pleased an All-wise Providence to remove from our midst a member of this board, David Sill; Therefore,

*Resolved*, That in his death the Grant Sub-District School Board has lost one of its oldest and most efficient members, and the schools an ardent and uncompromising friend.

*Resolved*, That we adjourn school on Monday, the 21st inst., in order to give the teachers and pupils an opportunity to attend the funeral of deceased.

*Resolved*, That we tender to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of sorrow.

### Teachers' Institute.

On Friday evening last a Teachers' Institute was held at Green Tree schoolhouse, Union township, at which County Superintendent Douthett presided. Professors Will, Taylor, Lyon and McMunn participated in the exercises, and Rev. Bean delivered a lecture on Object Teaching.

Resolutions were adopted as follows: That a knowledge of English literature should be required by law of the professional teacher; that as a higher standard of attainment is desirable in the teacher, it must be met with more liberal remuneration; that mem. object teaching (through the eye to the mind) as worthy of more attention than it has hitherto received; that a compulsory school law, supplemented by a system of industrial schools, is highly desirable; and that a state uniformity in text books is injudicious, impracticable, and subversive of the rights of directors and parents.

A resolution complimentary to County Superintendent Douthett was also passed, unanimously.

### The Shortest Day.

The daylight portion of to-day, December 21, will be the shortest day in the year, the sun reaching its furthest southern limit, the winter solstice. The sun will rise at 7:20 A. M. and set at 4:36 P. M., making the day between sunrise and sunset but nine hours and sixteen minutes in length in this latitude. This, with the short twilight characteristic of this season of the year leaves but a comparatively brief period of daylight. The "daytime" of to-day, however, will be a few seconds shorter than that of the day following, the difference of the daylight periods being inappreciable. For nearly two weeks, beginning December 12th and ending after Christmas, the days will be nine hours and sixteen minutes in length. It will not be until New Year's day that there will be perceptibly longer, the period of daylight being at that time two minutes longer than it is now. The seasons of the year are each ninety-one days, seven hours and thirty seconds in length.

### Attempts to Throw a Train from the Track.

On Thursday morning two attempts were made to throw a passenger train on the Erie and Pittsburgh Railroad from the track. The train was on the way to Pittsburgh, and the first obstruction, consisting of some railroad ties, a fence rail and a piece of pig iron, was at Horseshoe Pond, between Pulaski and Harbor bridge, about six miles beyond New Castle. Casper Lew, the engineer, saw the obstruction in time.

Twenty miles farther on, just as the engine was rounding the curve of a steep embankment, at the bottom of which ran Beaver river, another and nearly similar pile of obstructions was seen, and so close was the train that the pilot was raised by one of the ties ere it could be stopped. Had the train been thrown off the track there the consequences would have been terrible. It is supposed that this was the work of tramps who have been ejected from trains.

### Baptist Sunday School Convention.

Special Correspondence to Pittsburgh Commercial.

McKEESPORT, December 18, 1874.

A quarterly meeting of the Sunday School Convention, embraced within the bounds of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association, convened at the Baptist Church in this place yesterday morning, and continued through to-day.

Live questions relating to Sabbath school work were opened for discussion by J. J. Davis, Jacob Thos. Cordy, Rev. A. J. Bonsall and Rev. M. B. Sloan. The discussions on the different topics were full of life and interest. The children's meeting last evening was largely attended and a decidedly successful one. Addresses were delivered by Revs. J. W. Plummett, J. K. Hanson, J. K. Thomas, J. A. Snodgrass, W. H. Cooper, A. J. Bonsall, W. H. McKinney, J. D. Herr, J. W. Wightman, (Presbyterian), and D. A. McCready, (United Presbyterian). Singing by the choir of the Sunday School, assisted by a few others, was excellent and added much to the interest of the meetings and is the pleasure of all present. To-day's forenoon was devoted to the interests of local missions. Quite an amount has been expended in and around Pittsburgh during the last year, and several new churches have been organized as the result of such labor.

LENOX.

### The Democracy of the Sixth Ward.

*To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:*

A Democratic meeting was held in the Ann Street School House, Sixth ward, on Saturday evening, for the purpose of suggesting names for the ward offices to be filled in February next. Of course there was no scarcity of aspirants, and quite a number were suggested for each office. The fact that the Democracy carried the ward at the late October election, has made the Democrats quite saucy. From the language reported as used by a number at the meeting, it was very evident they thought that the offices of the ward were sure to be filled by Democrats, and all they had to do, was to decide, who among themselves, should fill them. Some said not want any Republicans to vote at the primary meeting, not even if they would pledge themselves to support the nominees at the election, as they had no faith in such pledges, perhaps from experience. They wanted to nominate their own ticket, and they thought enough Republicans would vote with them to elect it. Some were in favor of allowing Republicans to vote if they would give the desired pledge, and finally succeeded in passing a resolution, by a small majority, to that effect. But I apprehend that but very few good Republicans will avail themselves of that magnanimous offer.

It only remains for the Republicans of the Sixth ward to nominate good men, and do it themselves, without any dictation from any quarter. Have the primary meeting conducted with none but sworn officers in the room until all the votes are counted, and an old Sixth ward Republican majority will be the result at the election.

SPIRIT.

### Real Estate Transfers.

The following deeds were filed of record in the office of Ralph J. Richardson, County Recorder, December 18, 1874:

PITTSBURGH.

Alex. McConomy to Geo. W. Tund, December 12, 1874; 19 acres, 121 perches of land in Scott township, and lot Eleventh ward, Pittsburgh, 66.4x165 feet, Center avenue.....$65,000

B. Krugh to Charles Horstmeyer, September 25, 1874; lot 20x80 feet, Fifteenth street, South Side, Pittsburgh.....900

W. C. Patton to Wm. Cook, March 30, 1874; lot Sharpsburg borough, 42x176 feet.....1,500

Peter Kratzenberg to L. J. Shaitenbrand, October 24, 1874; lot Twentieth ward, Pittsburgh, 20x100 feet, Cypress street..1,300

James O'Donnell to James L. Murray, March 30, 1873; lot 13.4x16 feet, High street, Fifth ward, Pittsburgh.....2,150

DECEMBER 19.

PITTSBURGH.

Eleventh ward—Catharine Mullen to Catharine McDowell, September 21, 1864; lot on Center avenue, 20x88 feet.....$1,700 00

Twenty-seventh ward—Lissette Reinecke to Henry Lisfelt, September 26, 1874; lot on Pius street, 33x90 feet. 90 00

Thirteenth ward—R. G. Herron et al., executors to Dr. George Woods, lots 15 and 16, Charissa Herron's plan..... 410 00

ALLEGHENY.

Sixth ward—C. Beringer to Sebastian Ourchel, August 25, 1874; lot on Evans alley, 13½x38 feet..... 1,000 00

Second ward—Sebastian Ourchel to C. Beringer, August 25, 1874; lot on Union avenue, 24x250 feet..... 1,200 00

BOROUGHS.

Verona—Wm. J. Troxler to Felix R. Brunot, November 12, 1874; lot on Center avenue, 55x96 feet..... $1,250 00

TOWNSHIPS.

Penn—Jacob Staley to Wm. M. Richey, December 16, 1874; 23 acres and 62 perches land.....Nominal.

Penn—W. H. Bower to John McClintock, February 18, 1874; interest in 35 acres and 79 perches land..... $4,135 00

Carrier—Wm. S. Boyd to David L. Patterson, December 12, 1874; lots, Saltsburg way, 99x87.5x10 feet..... 525 37

### Death of David Sims.

Mr. David Sims, one of our oldest citizens, died at his residence on Sixth avenue, on Saturday morning, after a lingering illness. Mr. Sims was widely known and universally respected, and his death although anticipated for some time, will cause sincere regret among a large circle of friends. The deceased filled a number of public positions, among them Superintendent of Markets, member of the Third ward School Board, the Central Board of Education, City Councils and Board of Revision. A meeting of the Central Board will be held this afternoon, at one o'clock to make arrangements for attending the funeral, which is announced elsewhere.

### THAT ELECTION.

**Was it Legal, Illegal, or Premature?—A Legal Opinion Expressed by a Private Citizen.**

*To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:*

From reading the opinions, *pro* and *con*., of our ablest lawyers, on the much mooted question of our late municipal election, which were published in the DAILY COMMERCIAL, I constituted myself a *judge*, and decided that it was premature, but not illegal, and that no power on earth could justly set it aside or pronounce it illegal; for to have been illegal, there must have been some violation of law, either written or unwritten, or clear evidence of fraud. It was not a violation of law, because there was no well settled or explicit time named for holding the first city elections under the new Constitution; that there was no suspicion of fraud will be conceded by its bitterest opponents; therefore, it could not possibly have been illegal.

After rendering my decision as above, which was based on the opinions of others, I concluded to "look up the case" and study it in all its bearings, in order to draw my own conclusions, and form an opinion of my own unbiased, by that of others:

"Article VIII. Section 2. The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November. (1874 implied.)

Section 3. All elections for city, ward, borough and township officers, for regular terms of service, shall be held on the third Tuesday of February. (1874 implied for first election.)

SCHEDULE.

That no inconvenience may arise from the changes in the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and in order to carry the same into complete operation, it is hereby declared, that:

Section 1. This Constitution shall take effect on the first of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, for all purposes not otherwise provided therein.

Section 3. At the general election in the years one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, Senators shall be elected in all districts where there shall be vacancies. Those elected in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four shall serve for two years, and those elected in one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five shall serve one year.

Section 5. The first election for Governor under this Constitution shall be at the general election in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, when a Governor shall be elected for three years; and the term of legally married. The case then closed on both sides.

Mr. Acheson then offered in evidence extracts from "Schoolcraft's History of the Indian Tribes," bearing on the subject of marriage. The counsel for plaintiff objected, but the objection was overruled and the book admitted in evidence. The point of the offer was to show that Indian marriages were not binding, and could be dissolved at will.

Counsel then consulted in regard to the arguments—the court reminding them that but two speeches could be heard on each side.

The court stated that it was not desirable to begin the arguments then, as they could not be finished that day. He would hear the point to be submitted, and let the arguments go over until Monday.

Mr. Hatch, of Michigan, in behalf of plaintiffs, read the points of law upon which the plaintiffs asked the court to charge the jury, eleven in all.

Mr. Acheson and Mr. Morrison submitted the points of law for the defense, after which the arguments thereon were begun, Mr. Hatch arguing for the plaintiffs and Mr. Acheson for the defense. At the conclusion, court adjourned until this morning.

**U. S. District Court—Judge McCandless.**

Steel & Co., bankrupts, Crawford County. On motion of Mr. Seely, the assignment on the rule on the Sheriff of Crawford County, to show cause why an attachment for contempt should not issue against him for disobeying the order of the Court, was continued to the 29th inst.

George Ober, Allegheny City, bankrupt. The Register 's report on the proceedings at the meeting for composition, showing that a resolution for composition had been passed and confirmed, and that other matters relating thereto had been considered, it is ordered that a meeting of the creditors be held on the 28th instant, to inquire whether said resolution had been passed as required by the act as amended, and to show cause why said composition should not be accepted and confirmed, notice of said meeting to be published and served on each of the creditors.

John Levi, Luzerne county, bankrupt. Petition of John W. Jones, a creditor, for the ascertainment and liquidation of an alleged lien. Referred to Register Willard for examination and report.

Joseph H. Dingman, bankrupt, Crawford county. Petition for an injunction presented and argued by Mr. Fausett for, and Mr. Purviance against the same, after which a further argument on same was fixed for the 19th prox., and in the meantime restraining Guthrie & Byles and Andrew J. Nichols from performing the act sought to be enjoined.

A. H. Mills, Luzerne county, bankrupt. The report of Register Willard on the petition of C. C. Mills, a lien creditor, presented and argued this day, is therein recommended, the assignee is directed to pay said creditor the sum of $1,322 27; to United States Marshal Hall, $47 50; to assignee, $66 96; to M. A. Wilson, solicitor, $30, and to the Register, $25.

Keese, Perry & Co., bankrupts, Crawford county. The Register's report on the petition of solicitor for balance due from assignee for services rendered, presented, approved and in accordance with the recommendation, the assignee directed to pay the sum therein named.

**Common Pleas—Judges Sterrett and Stowe.**

In the case of F. Gwinner for use, vs. the City of Allegheny, defendant's counsel made a motion and filed reasons for a new trial.

Margaret Shaw filed a petition for a divorce from her husband James Shaw, and a subpœna was awarded.

In the case of Jas. Grier vs. Mary Palmer, defendant made a motion and filed reasons for a new trial.

In the divorce case of Margaret S. Highberger vs. Charles T. Highberger, Fred. Luty, Esq., was appointed examiner to take testimony.

In the divorce case of Lizzie Eckler vs. S. C. Eckler, a rule was granted on respondent to show cause why an attachment should not issue against him for contempt.

J. C. Cleaver, Justice, vs. Lewis Haney. Defendant made a motion and filed reasons for a new trial.

Michael Gaeber filed a petition for a divorce from his wife, Margaret Gaeber, and a subpœna was awarded.

In the divorce case of Henry Ruth vs. Margaret, a rule was granted on complainant to show cause why he should not pay respondent a certain sum for expenses.

In the matter of the voluntary assignment of J. C. Grierson to S. J. Brecht, the account of the assignee was presented and ordered to be confirmed *nisi*.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Shupe vs. Emerick; O'Neill vs. Ohio Township Insurance Company; Parker vs. McMasters; Splane vs. Goehring; Berberich vs. Daum; Baldwin vs. Baldwin; Lacock vs. Bauch *et ux*; Tenth Ward Bank vs. Fleming; Johnston vs. Pittsburgh Gas; Landis vs. Flucke *et al.*; Sutch vs. Sutch; McKay vs. Jennings; Schafer *et al.* vs. Bowers; Beatas vs. Bennett; McGrew & Co. vs. Levy; Singleton vs. Rhode.

**Quarter Sessions—Judge Collier.**

Sentences were imposed, on Saturday, as follows:

Robert Ott, larceny, three years to the penitentiary.

Annie Kennetts, larceny, nine months to the Workhouse.

Annie Shutz, for keeping a bawdy house, to the Workhouse one year.

William Deany, receiving stolen goods, thirty days in jail. There was a recommendation to mercy in this case.

Charles Johnson, receiving stolen goods, one year to the Workhouse.

Gustave Mark, assault and battery, fined $20, John Gimber, for a like offense, was fined $25.

Benjamin Knoerr, for selling liquor on Sunday, was fined $100 and costs.

Joseph Lofink, Jr., Peter Lofink and J. B. Helshy, found guilty of riot on oath of W. B. Ross, were called up for sentence. Joseph Lofink, Sr., had also been found guilty, but was granted a new trial. Michael Coutts, another of the parties in this case who was found guilty, was absent, being out on bail, and his sentence was postponed. Joseph Lofink, Jr., and Peter Lofink were fined $250 and costs each, and Helshy was fined $200 and costs.

Richard Savage, for the larceny of a watch, was sentenced to four months in the Work, house.

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[Advertisement.]

**The Congressional Canvass.**

The citizens of the Twenty-third district will be called on to-morrow to vote for one of their number to represent them in Congress during the present session. Of the candidates before the people no one is better qualified to discharge the duties of a Congressman acceptably than Alderman Absolom Baille, of Allegheny city. Able, active, energetic, fearless, independent and thoroughly honest is Alderman is one of the few men now in office that have the unlimited confidence of their constituents. The corrupting influences of Washington society would never swerve him from the line of duty, or influence him to betray his trust. In this case the man is not seeking the office, but the representative men of Allegheny city have called him to the front, and if they do their whole duty at the polls to-morrow they can secure his election. The interests of protection have in Alderman Baille a steadfast friend, and if elected his voice and vote will ever be on the side of the tariff, and in favor of the manufacturer, the mechanic and the workingman. If the citizens of that portion of Allegheny county lying within the district do their whole duty, Alderman Baille will fill the vacant chair of McJunkin in the National Legislature.

### OUR WATER SUPPLY.

**Meeting of the Water Committee—Replacing Pipe—Other Improvements.**

The Water Committee of Pittsburgh Councils held a meeting on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Mitchell in the chair. After the exoneration of several needy parties from tax for the past year, the question of relaying pipes of a large size across Shady Lane at the Pennsylvania Railroad was taken up. The present pipe had been cut when the tracks of the road were lowered and there were only a few joints of pipe needed. There was also a fire plug needed at this point. It was finally ordered that the pipe be laid.

Mr. Atkinson stated that there was considerable complaint that there were an insufficiency of plugs on Butler street, and that the pipes were full of water, but no plugs for a space of one and a half miles. The matter was discussed, but no action taken.

The bill of Inspector Russell, eighty-four dollars, for inspecting twenty-three steam boilers at the upper and lower water works, was presented and approved.

The report of the sub committee appointed to examine the new grate bars at the Bedford avenue works was presented, and occasioned discussion as to the merits of the patent grate bars. The report was received and filed, and the matter of the adoption of said bars laid over for the present.

An ordinance offered December 4th, in Select Council, and referred back, was next read. It recommends the changing of the stop-cock from the curbstone to the main. Also, that water rents be assessed on the party building a house from the date of beginning the house, instead of at the date of the occupation of said house. Discussion on the first provision of the ordinance ensued. Mr. Thompson claimed that where the mains occupied the centre of the street and the insertion of the stop-cocks would interfere with travel and endanger horsefeet. A motion that the ordinance be adopted, printed and sent to Councils with an affirmative recommendation was carried.

Adjourned until 2 P. M. on the 31st instant.

### COURT PROCEEDINGS.

**United States District Court—Judge McKennan.**

On Saturday, some half a dozen witnesses were examined in the case of Meister vs. Bissell and others, but the testimony threw no new light on the main point—whether William Mowry and his squaw had been legally married. The case then closed on both sides.

Mr. Acheson then offered in evidence extracts from "Schoolcraft's History of the Indian Tribes," bearing on the subject of marriage. The counsel for plaintiff objected, but the objection was overruled and the book admitted in evidence. The point of the offer was to show that Indian marriages were not binding, and could be dissolved at will.

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### PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

**Pittsburgh Opera House.**

Mr. Frank E. Aiken is to be the star at the Opera House this week. Mr. Aiken comes from Chicago, where he is favorably known as an actor and manager. He brings with him Bartley Campbell's latest dramatic venture, "The Virginian," and will give the piece its first representation outside of Chicago. It is fitting that Mr. Campbell's literary offspring should get a hearing in Pittsburgh, where he has been so long a resident. We make no doubt that the fame and popularity of this author, supplemented by the reputation of the actor who makes his *debut* here to-night, will be sufficient to fill the house with a kindly critical audience.

**Academy of Music.**

Mlle. Marietta Ravel, supported by a full company, to-night, begins an engagement of one week at the Academy. "The French Spy" is announced for the opening piece. "Marriage by Moonlight" and "The Wizard Skiff" are in preparation, and will be produced during the week. Extraordinary attractions are promised for Christmas afternoon and evening.

**To be Repeated.**

The many who failed to hear the "Bohemian Girl" sung by the Gounod Club on Thursday evening last, will be rejoiced to know that it is announced for a repetition on Monday evening next, 28th inst. The sale of seats will begin at H. Kleber & Bro.'s, 122 Wood street, on Thursday morning next at 9 o'clock.

In our notice of the first performance of the "Bohemian Girl" we forgot to mention the important part of the business assigned to our acclaim reportorial friend and editor of the "Balloon Almanac," Mr. W. C. Smythe. To his abilities as stage director a very fair share of the success of the performance was due.

**Trimble's Varieties Theater.**

There will be any amount of fun and enjoyment at Trimble's, this week. In the first place, the Denier pantomime troupe will bring out "Humpty-Dumpty" in fine style, with ever so many new tricks; and in the second place, there will be a full variety corps, headed by the wonderful Faust family, and including Canfield and Booker and other popular performers. Matinees will be given on Wednesday, Christmas and Saturday afternoons.

**The Minstrels.**

Dupree & Benedict will furnish mirth and music for the million at Library Hall, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Christmas matinee. The scale of prices of admission has been "marked down to the lowest figures," as the merchants say. The seats are on sale at Hale's music store, 103 Smithfield street.

### Death of David Sims.

Mr. David Sims, one of our oldest citizens, died at his residence on Sixth avenue, on Saturday morning, after a lingering illness. Mr. Sims was widely known and universally respected, and his death although anticipated for some time, will cause sincere regret among a large circle of friends. The deceased filled a number of public positions, among them Superintendent of Markets, member of the Third ward School Board, the Central Board of Education, City Councils and Board of Revision. A meeting of the Central Board will be held this afternoon, at one o'clock to make arrangements for attending the funeral, which is announced elsewhere.

### CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

PITTSBURGH Councils meet again to-day.

THE man who is out of pocket might as well be out of town.

A STRONG MINDED woman will always be speaker of the house.

SIGNS of the coming year—Diaries, calendars, &c., for 1875.

A DEALER should not only advertise his business, but advertise to get business.

THE handsome addition to the buildings of Messrs. Lewis, Oliver & Phillips is now nearly completed.

"FATTY" BOYLE escaped from the Workhouse Saturday, and the detectives are in search of the fugitive.

A BOY named McLain was thrown from a horse Saturday, on North avenue, Allegheny, and severely injured.

THE alarm bell in Allegheny will shortly be arranged to strike the hours of twelve, three, six and nine, as in this city.

THE season is here when the bad man wants to find out if his neighbor has a big wood pile, and if he is near sighted.

THE sum of $101 was found in the clock sent to be repaired at Terheyden's jewelry store. It was a timely gift to a worthy lady.

WHY did she turn her back on the young man? Impudent child! She wished to make an exhibition of her new overskirt.

PETER WALTERS, a constable of the Twenty-ninth ward, has been held for trial on a charge of blackmailing Adam Bletch.

MESSRS. Campbell, Jones & Co., the well-known glass manufacturers, are manufacturing paper weights of very handsome patterns.

DETECTIVE JAMES SCOTT has in his possession two keys attached to a string, which were found on the pavement in front of the new City Hall.

AMONG the guests at the Union Depot Hotel yesterday were Gens. Sherman and Babcock. They departed for the West on the 2:13 P. M. train.

THE new engine house on Sandusky street, Allegheny, will be occupied this week by the Columbia Hook and Ladder and Steam Fire Engine Company.

THE motto of the *Labor Tribune*, as drawn from its recent utterances, would run thus: "If any man attempts to take the place of a striking miner, shoot him on the spot!"

"PIGGY" McGEE, who escaped from the Workhouse one day last week, was arrested and returned to his old quarters, Saturday evening, by Lieutenant Hager and Officer Getty.

A HORSE and buggy driven by a young man named Walters ran away yesterday, on the Perrysville road, doing no further damage, however, then breaking the buggy slightly.

THE Central Board of Education will meet at one o'clock to-day, and, after taking suitable action on the death of David Sims, Esq., the members will attend the funeral in a body.

TWO WOMEN named Elizabeth Glen and Mary Bell, of the Twenty-fourth ward, have been committed to jail by Alderman Donley for trial, on a charge of keeping a disorderly house.

J. G. MacConnell, Esq., the Commissioner appointed by the Court to take testimony in the matter of the rising main, filed the testimony—a huge mass—in the Prothonotary's office on Saturday.

PATRICK CAEB, *alias* O'Brien, charged before Alderman O'Donnell with highway robbery, on oath of Patrick Dunlay, already reported, has been committed to jail to await a hearing on Tuesday next.

TIME, now, to hear from the confectioners through the papers. What is Christmas without candy? and what is the use of having lots of good things without letting the people know all about them?

ON the charge of stealing a carpenter saw and square, Wallace Crompton was committed to jail by Alderman Mitchell, Saturday, in default of bail in $500 for a hearing. Isaac McGlumphey is the complainant.

A SMART boy in the Third ward school, the other day, upon hearing that the holiday vacation was ordered *from* Thursday, the 24th inst., complained and said, "Why that bumps us right up against Christmas."

A SACHEL, evidently that of a school girl, is at the Mayor's office awaiting an owner. It was found a day or two since on the street. It contains, besides some verses and a paper of powder, a number of other articles of value to the owner.

AN elegant new single-scull for Eph. Morris was expected to arrive at Baltimore, Saturday, by the steamer Manitoba, from England. It is a present to Eph. from Mr. Robert Liddell, of the Twelfth ward. It is said to be one of the finest shells ever made.

THE funeral of Andreas Knauff, a well-known musician of this city, took place yesterday afternoon, from the German Masonic Hall, Allegheny, and was largely attended by the various musical societies of the two cities, together with a vast concourse of citizens.

A MAN at McDonald's was digging in his garden, a short time ago, and found potato bugs a foot below the surface of the ground. Unless there is a war of complete extermination begun early in the spring, by every one, old and young, we may have a short potato crop next year.

THOMAS KNOWLAND, who had been steering clear of water all day, fell into the river, below the Suspension bridge, Saturday night, where he was found by Officer Tuley, taking in large quantities of water. The officer rescued Thomas and took him to the lock-up.

REV. W. M. FLOYD, the colored Episcopal minister who recently arrived in this city with a view of organizing a congregation of his race and denomination, has so far succeeded as to have procured a hall on Wylie street, just below Elm, where he will hold services for the present.

MR JOHN LAVELEY, a prominent business man, well known to many of our citizens, died in Philadelphia, on Wednesday last, aged forty-nine years. He was a member of the firm of Thompson & Woods and Reiter, Laveley & Co., and was highly esteemed for his probity and worth.

THERE is no present prospect of a compromise between the workmen and the bolters. The latter say they will not come down, and the former that they cannot continue at the old rates. The manufacturers say that if the latter will accept the price offered they would stock up.

A DELEGATION of officials from St. Louis was in the city on Friday and Saturday looking after the condition of wood pavements. On Saturday they paid a visit to the Seventh avenue fire engine house and were astonished at the celerity with which the horses were hitched to the machines.

IN THE Common Pleas Court, on Saturday, A. J. Rich and Martha Rich, his wife, entered suit in electment against Daniel McGurk, Albert Thompson, Daniel Pentz and Samuel Smith, to recover possession of nine acres of land in the Twenty-first ward, fronting on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

REV. DR. NEWTON, the venerable Sunday-school missionary, from Philadelphia, conducted the exercises at the noon prayer meeting Saturday afternoon. The subject under discussion was "The Resurrection of Christ." The hall of the Y. M. C. A. was crowded by a very much interested audience.

The District Court, as a separate institution, will be abolished on the first of January, under the new Constitution, and merged in the Court of Common Pleas, which will be divided into two branches—No. 1 and No. 2. All the Judges will thereafter take their turn on the Quarter Sessions bench.

BURGLARS entered the residence of Mr. W. Hephihill, corner Thirty-eighth and Penn, Saturday morning, and carried off several Russian leather valises belonging to a lady visitor, containing silk dresses, sacques, underclothing, etc. The thieves visited the larder and demolished all the eatables they could lay their hands on.

THE Literary Society at McDonald's, on Friday night, decided on, "Resolved, That intemperance is more destructive than the sword." Affirmative—P. S. Dilworth, J. D. Bisehy. Negative—Paul Jones, S. S. Johns and J. S. Johnston. The decision was given. An essay by Miss Matthews was pronounced first-class. Declamation by Miss Mary Maloney was duly appreciated.

COUNCILMAN WEST proposes to reduce the salary of patrolmen to two dollars per day, the additional fifty cents now paid to go towards establishing a police fund, from which rewards shall be paid to deserving policemen on the following sliding scale: For arresting murderers, $50; for arresting burglars, $25; for arresting confidence men, $20; for arresting mild inebriates, $0.

A FEW weeks ago, at McDonald's, a dog ran out barking furiously at a lady who was getting on the train, about an hour before daylight. The lady, to get out of his way, ran upon the platform of the depot, and it not being light enough for her to see where she was going walked directly off the opposite side, falling on the railroad track, injuring her severely. She was not able to be around until a few days ago.

HOUSE, HEISTER CLYMER, of Pennsylvania; Farrell and Fort, of Illinois; Borroughs, of Michigan, and Southard, of Ohio, the committee from the House of Representatives appointed to escort the remains of Hon. John B. Rice, deceased, late member from the First Illinois district, to Chicago, passed through the city yesterday. The funeral of Mr. Rice will take place to-morrow.

ELIZABETH GALLAGHER entered suit before Alderman D. L. Smith, of Allegheny, Saturday, against Thomas Carey, proprietor of a grocery store on Monterey street. Her complaints are that Carey retails liquor on a wholesale license, and that he sells the same to a relative of hers while he is in an intoxicated condition, and persists in doing so, despite her entreaties to the contrary. Held for a hearing.

JOHN MACKEY, the pugilist who trained John C. Heenan for his fight with Tom Sayers, and seconded him in his fight with Morrissey, died at Windsor, Ontario, a few days ago. Mackey kept a saloon in this city, on Third avenue, one door above Wood street, known as "Sportsman's Hall," and was there when the celebrated Williams bank robbery was perpetrated. The bank occupied the adjoining room, on the corner of Wood street.

PARTIES in Allegheny have commenced a war upon the proprietors of cigar stores, beer saloons, confectionaries, shaving saloons and drug stores, who are known to violate the law against selling on Sunday. They propose to give notice to all such persons in both cities in the course of the week, and any one not complying with the law thereafter will be dealt with accordingly.